

Golden double by ROK shuttlers

BARCELONA, Aug 4: Kim Moon-Soo and Park Joo-Bong of South Korea defeated Eddy Hartono and Rudy Gunawan of Indonesia, 15-11, 15-7 Tuesday to win the men's doubles Olympic badminton gold medal, reports AP.

Li Yongbo and Tian Bingyi of China and Sidek Razif and Sidek Jalani of Malaysia won the bronze medals.

Hwang Hye-Young and Chung So-Young of South Korea defeated Guan Weizhen and Nong Qunhua of China 18-16, 12-15, 15-13 Tuesday to win the women's doubles gold medal.

Gil Young-ah and Shim Eun-Jung of South Korea and Lin Yanfen and Yao Fen of China took the bronze medals.

Germany win dressage gold

BARCELONA, Aug 4: Germany — considered to be a surer winner than the US basketball team — won the team dressage gold medal for the third Olympics in a row, with 5,224 points, reports AP.

The Netherlands team earned the silver medal with 4,742 points and the United States won the bronze with 4,643.

The United States has won only one other dressage medal in Olympic history, a bronze at Montreal in 1976.

The German riders will enter the individual dressage competition Wednesday ranked one-two-three and are expected to sweep the medals.

The Germans were represented by three women riders and mounted policeman Klaus Balkenhol, who rode his police horse Goldfern for the highest point total of the day, 1768.

Taiwan reach baseball semis

BARCELONA, Aug 4: Taiwan hit three homers and got another will-pitched game from Kuo Lee Chien-fu on Tuesday to beat Japan 5-2 in the Olympic semifinals and advance to the gold-medal game, reports AP.

Taiwan (6-2) will play the winner of the US-Cuba semifinal for baseball's first Olympic gold on Wednesday. Japan (5-3) play the loser for the bronze.

Huang Chung-yi, Liao Ming-hsiung and Wu Shih-hsih hit solo homers and Wu added a sacrifice fly as Taiwan overcame an early 2-1 deficit.

Kuo Lee, who has pitched more innings than anyone in the Olympic tournament, beat the Japanese for the second time in four days. The right-hander also shut them out 2-0 on three hits during round robin play.

Croatian cagers crush Aussies on way to semis

BARCELONA, Aug 4: Drazen Petrovic scored 25 points and Croatia rode some hot shooting into the semifinals of the men's Olympic basketball tournament with a 98-65 victory over Australia on Tuesday, reports AP.

Croatia (5-1) have lost only to the United States, Against Australia, all five starters scored 12 points or more. They finished the game shooting a torrid 61 per cent from the field (39 for 64). Petrovic led the way, making 10 of 14 shots.

In consolation round play Tuesday, Angola assured themselves of at least matching Africa's best finish in Olympic men's basketball with a 79-69 victory over winless China.

Angola play Spain, whom they beat by 20 points in preliminary play, for ninth place Thursday. The hosts defeated Venezuela making Olympic debut, 95-81 in the classification round to match Angola's two-win, four-loss record.

If Angola win again, they would finish in the 12-team field one better than the 10th-place Central African Republic in 1988.

CIS beat Brazil

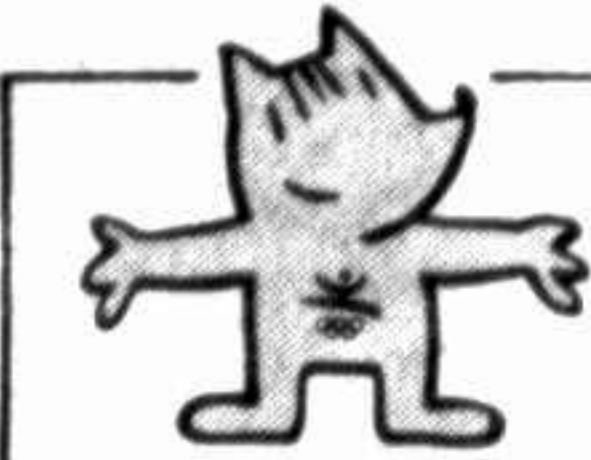
BARCELONA, Aug 4: The Unified Team earned a spot in the medal round in women's basketball Monday, beating Brazil 76-64 in their final preliminary game, reports AP.

After losing to Cuba in their opener, the Unified Team won two straight to reach the semifinals.

The Unified Team took advantage of Brazil's cold shooting to take a 48-33 halftime lead. A 13-4 run that included 11 points by Hortencia Marcari pulled Brazil to 55-50, but the Unified Team responded with eight straight points to regain control.

Brazil (1-2), which shot only 35 per cent, never got closer than nine points after that.

Elena Tomnikidou and Elena Chvalbavitch led the Unified Team with 20 points each. Marcari finished with 26 for Brazil, which failed to make the medal round after winning the gold medal at the 1991 Pan American Games.



# OLYMPIC SPECIAL



## Passing of an era



BARCELONA, Aug 4: They are athletes from a discredited and abandoned political system, their enormous talent unscathed by chaos in their homeland.

Gymnastics in the former Soviet Union goes on as before.

Competing as the Unified Team, gymnasts from the separate republics came together in Barcelona to collectively and individually show up the world one more time.

They did it more convincingly than ever before, writes AP.

Vitaly Scherbo, who captured more gold medals — six — than any other gymnast in Olympic history, led the way to the awards podium.

"I have achieved all that I have been aiming for," he said after winning the all-around title, and four of the six individual event finals.

So did the rest of the Unified Team, which finished with 17 medals, 11 of them gold.

World champion Grigori Misutin captured five medals, his brilliance dulled only by Scherbo's assault on the record book.

Igor Korobchinski and Valeri Belenki will each take home a gold and bronze, and Aleksei Voropaev and Roustam Charipov a gold each.

But in the midst of more glory, there is change. Most if not all of the Unified Team is expected to seek coaching jobs in other countries.

"I believe that our medals will have an impact on our future, perhaps in terms of the contracts that we might be offered from foreign countries," Scherbo said.

Leonid Arkaev, the team's coach for two decades, also is leaving, reportedly to train in France.

Arkaev's list of proteges includes former world and Olympic champions like Nikolai Andrianov, Alexander Dityatin, Dimitri Bilozerehev, Korobchinski, Misutin and now Scherbo.

"I don't know if our gymnastics system will be dismantled," he said. "The republics already have their own coaches. There is likely to be a drop in standards in terms of drawing together teams, but I don't think that there will be a decline. There will be new stimulate for the gymnasts."

The inspiration for excellence could be French francs, British pounds of American dollars.

"Work in the former Soviet Union, or our own Republics, is very difficult right now and everyone needs money," Scherbo said.

The Unified Team women also dominated, though not as decisively as the men.

Tatiana Goutsou, a 15-year-old Ukrainian, has replaced former world champion Svetlana Boguinskaya as the team leader.

Goutsou won the all-around title in a dramatic duel with American Shannon Miller and Romanian star Lavinia Milosovic.

Belenki suggests the team's domination is near an end. "In Azerbaijan," he said, "the young generation is not interested in gymnastics."



Indonesia's Susi Susanti waves from the podium after being awarded the women's badminton singles gold medal in Barcelona yesterday. — AFP photo



Indonesia's Alan Budi-Kusuma hits a return during yesterday's men's badminton singles final against fancied compatriot Ardy Wiranata yesterday. — AFP

## Golden glory for love birds



BARCELONA, Aug 4: Susi Susanti and boy friend Allian Budi Kusuma shared Olympic badminton glory on Tuesday, giving Indonesia their first ever gold medals, reports Reuter.

Top seed Susanti won the women's singles final 5-11, 11-5 11-3, beating South Korean teenager Bang Soo-Hyun.

Then just over an hour later Kusuma, World Championship runner-up in 1991, beat compatriot Ardy Wiranata 15-12, 18-13, in the men's final.

It was an extraordinary success story for the couple. They have known each other for about five years and tour the badminton circuit together.

Indonesia's only previous Olympic medal was a silver in archery.

The medals Susanti and Kusuma received were the first awarded in badminton, which is making its debut in Barcelona.

Thomas Stuer-Laursen of Denmark and Hermawan Susanto of Indonesia took the men's singles bronze medals.

The women's bronze medals went to the beaten semifinalists Huang Hua and Tang Jiubong, both of China.

International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch, who watched the finals presented Susanti with her gold medal.

Kusuma's triumph was a major surprise because he had been the men's singles sixth seed, and in the final he had to overcome his more fancied compatriot, Ardy Wiranata, last year's All-England champion.

Kusuma did so by coming from 1-9 down in the second game to win 15-12, 18-13.

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"It didn't affect the way I felt about my match when Susi won," said Kusuma.

"I just wanted to fight hard through the match."

It was the second time in four months the 19-year-old Korcan had been runner-up in a major event. She lost in the All-England final to world champion Tang Jiuhong, the player she brought down in Monday's semi-finals.

These startling Indonesian Olympic successes are all the more remarkable for having come after they lost the Thomas Cup final, both All-England singles titles, and failed to win any of the five world titles in Copenhagen last year.



Lu Lin of China (R) serves against the Germans as teammate Wang Tao watches in the men's table tennis doubles competition in Barcelona yesterday. The Chinese pair won the gold. — AFP photo

## Second TT gold for China

BARCELONA, Aug 4: China won their second table tennis gold medal of the Barcelona Games when Lu Lin and Wang Tao took the men's doubles title Tuesday, reports AP.

The pair defeated Germany's Steffen Fetzner and Jorg Rosskopf in the final by 26-24, 18-21, 21-18, 13-21, 21-14.

Lu and Wang were the silver medalists at the 1991 World Championships.

Two South Korean pairs won bronze medals — the team of Kang Hee-chan and Lee Chul-seung and the team of Kim Taek-soo and Yoo Nam-kyu.

China's Deng Yaping and Qiao Hong had won the gold medal in women's doubles Monday, defeating countrywomen Chen Zhe and Gao Jun in the finals.

The women's and men's singles titles will be determined later this week.

## Games help Barcelonans rediscover their city



BARCELONA, Aug 4: Christopher Columbus looked as if he just couldn't believe it.

From the top of his 30-metre (100-foot) column on the Barcelona waterfront, the man who discovered the Americas 300 years ago stared out to sea as if unable to comprehend the scene at his feet, reports Reuter.

One a.m. and tens of thousands of people were still crushed together along the harbour side in sultry Mediterranean heat, taking in the atmosphere. Thousands more thronged the fountains on the approaches to the National Palace on Montjuic Hill.

Barcelona had reached the mid-point of its Olympic Games — the first full weekend of competition — and Olympic fever had struck with a vengeance.

"It was total madness. I have never seen so many people," said a policeman on duty in the Plaza de Espana at the foot of Montjuic, crowned by the Olympic stadium, the Palau Sant Jordi and the panoramically-sited swimming pool.

Municipal authorities calculate that half a million people made the pilgrimage to the top of Montjuic on Saturday, the vast majority without tickets for the sports events and apparently content just to wander outside the stadiums.

Through the weekend they posed in droves for photographs with the bowl of the Olympic flame in the background.

Hundreds clustered at spots where small holes in the fencing afforded a glimpse into the stadium but they could see only the scoreboard and a section of the giant video screen. And when the men's 100 metres started officials inside covered the holes.

In the evening, huge crowds sat listening to music and recovering from the stifling heat around the illuminated fountains below the extravagant domes of the National Palace lower down the hill.

As spectators poured from the Olympic Stadium at the end of the day's athletics events, the human traffic jam was total.

Loudspeakers exhorted those around the fountains: "Please stand up and move on. Let the people come down the hill."

At the metro station in the Plaza de Espana police set up barricades to control access to the platforms. A civil guard's man with a loud hailer told frustrated passengers: "The platforms are completely full. It is too dangerous."

Downtown, on the waterfront, thousands strolled until the early hours looking at the gleaming cruise ships which have been brought into the harbour to act as extra accommodation for members of the giant Olympic "family".

Some bars on the Ramblas, Barcelona's most famous boulevard which slices through the city to the Columbus statue, ran out of drink.

Spanish success in the Games added spice to the atmosphere. By the end of the weekend the host nation had won seven gold medals — against a grand total of four in 15 previous Games.

Anywhere a Spantard was involved big crowds turned out, even to watch sports little known in this soccer, cycling and tennis-crazy country.

The most prominent fan was King Juan Carlos, who appeared in open-necked, yellow and white striped sports shirt, his accreditation document

stuffed into the pocket, to watch baseball, encourage water polo players and embrace gold medal-winning yachtsmen.

Columbus stands with his back to the city, as Barcelona long stood with its back to the sea.

The Olympic cruise ships have brought the harbour back to life. The seafront Olympic Village, built where for decades a railway ran and gloomy warehouses blocked access to the shore, has reopened the city to the sea.

Until a decade ago, Montjuic was a virtual wasteland. The Olympic Stadium, originally built for the 1929 World Fair but now completely recreated within the original brown stone facade, and the National Palace were sadly dilapidated.

In recent years leisure facilities and public gardens have made it one of Barcelona's attractions.

"But now, with the Olympics, it has really come to life for the first time," said a local doctor, mixing with the weekend crowds with his two small daughters.

"It is as if people are re-discovering their city. The atmosphere is fantastic."

## BARCELONA BRIEFS

### Redmond's true grit

BARCELONA, Aug 4 (Reuter): Britain's Derek Redmond, in agony after pulling a hamstring, was so determined to finish his 400 metres semifinal that he hobbled across the line in the arms of his father.

Redmond, who had to pull out of the Seoul Olympics on the morning of the race with a torn Achilles tendon, collapsed in agony halfway through the semifinal.

He got up, pushed medical officials away and limped in excruciating pain down the track to tumultuous cheers from the crowd who saluted his courage.

Then his father Jim leapt over the barrier and rushed across the track to his aid. Redmond sobbed on his father's shoulder and they crossed the line together in a crumpled embrace.

"I just wanted to finish. It was as simple as that. I wasn't doing it for the crowd, I was doing it for me," the 26-year-old Redmond told reporters after having his hamstring strapped up by doctors.

His father Jim, explaining his spontaneous gesture, said: "I was determined to help him across that line."

Derek Redmond, his shoulders heaving as he sobbed his heart out on his agonising progress down the home straight, confessed he didn't recognise his father when he first rushed up.

"It took me a second or two. I was just determined to finish whatever happened. I had to pull out in Seoul on the morning of the heats because of an Achilles tendon."

"It all happened so quickly this time. I was running, then suddenly, pop, the hamstring had gone. I was just determined to get up."

It was also a bitter blow for the British 4x400 relay squad.

Redmond ran the fastest leg in the team's victory at last year's World Championships.

Magic mobbed

MAGIC Johnson, one of the most recognizable faces in sports, is being mobbed wherever he goes at the Barcelona Olympics.

Johnson said that he slipped out of the luxury hotel where the "Dream Team" is staying to have dinner at a nearby Italian restaurant the other night.

"About a thousand people ate dinner with me," said the retired Los Angeles Lakers star. "The restaurant people kept them out but they stayed there the whole two hours that I was in there eating until I came out."

"They were cool, all of them walked me back to the hotel."

Johnson, who retired from the Lakers in November after announcing that he had contracted the HIV virus which leads to AIDS, said he has been "baffled" by his reception here.

"I knew I was known internationally but never quite this big," he said.

"US head coach Chuck Daly has said it is like 'travelling with 12 rock stars' and the 'Dream Team' is surrounded by heavy security wherever they go.

Building bridges

S PORT has bridged the political division of a 5,000-year-old nation at the Barcelona Olympics, where North Korean athletes are being cheered by spectators from the South.

Now a top North Korean sports official has said he hopes talks can take place with South Korea on joint teams for the 1994 Asian Games in Japan.

Chang Ung, secretary general of the North Korean Olympic Committee, said he hoped steps to break a deadlock on sporting ties might come when political representatives meet to discuss social and cultural links on the divided peninsula.

Those talks, which Chang said were planned for September, are part of a broader dialogue on improved links between the two Koreas, which have remained technically at war since the end of the 1950-53 Korean conflict.

The two Koreas last held talks on joint sporting teams in February 1991.

They agreed to field unified squads at the table tennis World Championship in Chiba, Japan and the world youth soccer championships in Portugal in the same year.