

OLYMPIC SPECIAL



BARCELONA BRIEFS

Fretful fencers

BARCELONA, Aug 5 (Agencies): Fencers from the Commonwealth of Independent States are threatening to boycott the Olympic epee team event if they are not paid the promised bonus from their World Championship win.

"We're talking about 10,000 dollars from the whole Olympic bonus fund of 3.5 million dollars. They can afford it," said Sergei Kostarev.

Unified Team spokesman Rudolf Nezvetsky said they wanted to settle the dispute after the Games.

But Kostarev said: "If we fence here without getting the last bonus we'll never get it."

French forgers

SPANISH police said on Tuesday they had arrested four Frenchmen and a woman and seized 9,000 fake Olympic lapel pins they were going to sell in Barcelona.

The badges bore the COOB '92 logo of the Games Organising Committee, a spokeswoman said. Olympic logos are all copyrighted.

Police arrested two Frenchmen last week with 1,000 fake pins.

Departure in disgust

AUSTRIAN handball player Kerstin Joensson flew home in disgust on Tuesday after she was left out of the team which ruined their medal chances by losing their last Olympic qualifier.

"She wanted to play but didn't," said Austrian team chief Heinz Jungwirth. "She flew home today. You can't help someone against their will."

"It's understandable, but on the other hand rather unusual."

He said Joensson had taken Monday's 19-17 defeat by Norway to heart because she had only been a spectator.

War-wagers pacified

THE Nike-Reebok Olympic warm-up suit war is over.

Michael Jordan and the five other "Dream Teamers" who are Nike loyalists do wear warm-up suits made by Reebok on the medal podium after all.

The US Olympic Committee has signed a contract with Reebok stipulating that all US medal winners appear on the victory podium in Reebok outfits.

But Jordan and five other NBA stars on the US Olympic basketball team are under contract to endorse Nike and were refusing to appear in Reebok outfits.

A peace settlement was worked out by Dave Gavitt, the president of USA basketball.

The US Amateur Basketball Federation, in a statement, said "All members will appear on the medal platform in the uniform issued by the US Olympic Committee."

"Some players may choose to wear the awards suit in a manner that doesn't reveal any commercial identification," it said.

"We won't defend the uniform," Jordan said of the compromise agreement.

"I'll wear it where you can't see Reebok."

"Certain players are going to choose the way they're going to wear it," he said.

Jordan, the star of a multi-million dollar Nike advertising campaign, and others had threatened to boycott the inevitably gold medal ceremony for the US if they were forced to display the Reebok logo.

Iraqi interpretation

IRAQ'S Olympic contingent have rejected claims that they are being shunned at the Barcelona Games.

Dr Saad Athami, the Iraqi chief of mission, denies they intended to be provocative when their nine athletes made defiant V-for-victory signs at the television cameras during the opening ceremony.

"The V-for-victory sign was just to show the world that it was a victory for us just to have got here," he claimed.

"Because of the UN embargo we had a 16-hour bus journey from Baghdad to Jordan and then we had to go via Rome to fly to Barcelona."

"So before we went into the stadium we all discussed it and agreed to give the sign as a gesture to show the world that we were here, there was no political motive behind it."

He said he was unaware of any whistling or booing which greeted their gesture.

India in the dumps

TERRASSA, Aug 5: India, Olympic men's hockey champions on eight previous occasions, slumped again on Wednesday to match their worst ever Games performance, reports Reuters.

A 2-0 defeat by Spain means that India, who have not won a major contest since the widely-boycotted 1980 Moscow Games, fail to qualify for the 1993 Champions' Trophy between the world's top six teams.

India will play New Zealand, who lost 3-2 to 1980 Olympic champions Britain earlier on Wednesday, for seventh or eighth place on Thursday.

India's previous worst Olympics were in 1976 when they were seventh. The result was seen at the time as a national humiliation.

"We played about 40 minutes of good hockey today, but we were unable to score," said deputy Indian coach S S Grewal.

"And then Spain fought back."

Spain, silver medalists in 1980, now play Britain for fifth place on Thursday.

Spanish forward Jose Iglesias scored the first goal in the 40th minute with a flick into the roof of the net from a penalty corner.

David Freixa picked up a cross into the area 17 minutes later and hit it first time for the second goal.

India's Jude Felix got a red card for a dangerous tackle three minutes from the end.

Despite hopes of a revival at the 1992 Games at Terrassa outside Barcelona, India have managed to beat only outsiders Argentina and Egypt in six matches.

Sixth in Seoul in 1988, the Indians have a proud Games history and won every match they played at the Olympic from 1928 to 1960, when they lost the final to Pakistan.

They last missed a place in the Champions' Trophy in 1989.

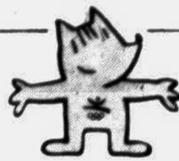
Germany sweep dressage golds

BARCELONA, Aug 5: German horses and riders swept the medals in Olympic individual dressage competition Wednesday, reports AP.

Nicole Uphoff and her horse Rembrandt, the current world and 1988 Olympic champions, won the gold medal with 1,626 points for the dressage test.

"It's always extraordinary to ride Rembrandt," Uphoff said of their performance, which she said was better than the one in Seoul. "He almost did everything himself. We worked closely together and we were to perfect harmony."

Isabelle Werth, riding Gigolo, won the silver medal with 1,551 points and Klaus Balkenbol, a mounted policeman from Dusseldorf, rode Goldstern for 1,515 points and the bronze medal.



Aussies in hockey final

TERRASSA, Spain, Aug 5: Australia beat world champions the Netherlands 3-2 today to reach the men's hockey final—their third chance of an elusive Olympic gold, reports Reuters.

Australia's best Olympics so far were in 1968 and 1976, when they won the silver.

Their aggressive forward line piled unrelenting pressure on the Netherlands throughout the semifinal. But the Dutch came back late in the game after penalty corner expert Floris Jan Bovelandier slammed in his second goal from the set-piece.

Germany and Pakistan play the other semifinal later today. The winner will play Australia for the gold on Saturday. The loser will play the Netherlands for the Bronze.

Australia have now won 11 of their 14 games against the Netherlands since the Seoul Olympics, where Australia finished fourth and the Netherlands got the bronze.

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BOVELANDIER... 11 goals

winger Paul Lewis scored by hitting in a deflected cross. Bovelandier, 26, a Blochem-

istry student who was top scorer in Seoul with nine goals, equalised by slamming in a shot from the Netherlands' first set-piece in the 19th minute, helping steady his side's nerves.

But the Australian defence managed to foil several of the Dutch side's feared penalty corners, which often won them earlier qualifying games on the artificial pitch at Terrassa, a town outside Barcelona.

Australian right-wing Lee Bodimeade scored from the right 10 minutes from half-time after goalkeeper Frank Leistra ran off his line to intercept another attacker.

Two minutes into the second half, Kenneth Wark struck in a penalty corner goal for Australia, just out of reach of the sprawling goalkeeper.

Bovelandier briefly revived the Dutch hopes in the 60th minute by blasting in his second penalty corner goal—his 11th of the tournament and making him by far the highest scorer.

Hosts, Germans in women's final

TERRASSA, Spain, Aug 5: Olympic newcomers Spain reached the women's hockey final with a shock 2-1 win over South Korea, runners-up in 1988, in extra time on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Spain will battle Germany for the gold or silver in the final on Friday. Germany, runners up at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, beat Britain 2-1 in the first semifinal on Tuesday.

An ecstatic local crowd invaded the pitch in Terrassa outside Barcelona at the end of the Spain-South Korea match after defender Maria Barea scored from a deflected penalty corner two minutes from the end of extra time.

The game had been tied at 1-1 with Spain resisting wave

after wave of Korean attacks. If the game lasted two minutes longer, it would have been decided by a penalty stroke competition.

South Korea and Britain will fight for the bronze medal on Friday.

"It's wonderful for Spanish hockey. I thought the team were a little lucky against an excellent Korean team," said Leandro Negre, president of the Spanish Hockey Federation. But he said the Spanish team seemed stronger in the dying minutes.

Germany beat Britain 2-1 with goals in each half by the youngest players on the pitch, 18-year-old wingers Heike Latsch and Nadine Ernsting-Krienke.

Jane Sixsmith scored for Britain between the German goals, hitting in a ball rebounding off the goalkeeper. Britain

were fourth in Seoul.

Spain, playing before a roaring local crowd in their first Olympics, went ahead in the ninth minute when striker Natalia Dorado scored after a shot by Teresa Motos rebounded off a post.

South Korea's Chang-Sook Kwon equalised late in the first half, slamming in a shot from a penalty corner to send the game to extra time.

Spain and Germany drew 2-2 in their opening pool game last week.

Defending champions Australia and world champions the Netherlands, strong pre-Games favourites, meet in a play off for fifth and sixth places after a series of upsets.

Women's hockey was introduced to the Olympics at the widely-boycotted Moscow Games in 1980, when Zimbabwe were surprise winners.

Britain down NZ in 'bullfight'

TERRASSA, Spain, Aug 5: One player was sent off and six others sin-binned on Wednesday as

deposed Olympic men's hockey champions Britain beat New Zealand 3-2 in a match which one official likened to a bullfight, reports Reuters.

Britain's Stephen Martin was dismissed early in the second half after an umpire said he struck defender David

Grundy with his stick in the groin.

Britain also received two yellow cards and New Zealand four.

Later the tournament's technical delegate, Heinz Woltz of Germany, described the match to British team manager Bernard Cotton as a bullfight.

But the teams said the umpires over-reacted. "It became a joke among the players who was going to be sent off next,"

New Zealand coach Kevin Towns said.

British coach Norman Hughes said: "There was no malice between the teams. It was no harder than any other international. The umpires appeared to have decided to use yellow instead of green cards."

Green cards are used as a warning without sending off.

Britain will play Spain for fifth or sixth place on Thursday, having lost their chance of a medal at the weekend. New Zealand play India for seventh or eighth.

Grant McLeod, the New Zealand full back, got the first yellow card in the sixth minute for knocking over Sean Kerly.

Britain went into a 2-0 lead as Rob Hill flicked in Britain's first penalty corner for his sixth Olympic goal and Jon Potter converted a penalty stroke.

New Zealand also converted their first penalty corner. Greg Russ's shot being deflected into the roof of the net. McLeod came back to strike home New Zealand's equaliser from his side's third penalty corner.

Britain were reduced to nine men early in the second half as Hill received a yellow card and a minute later Martin's red.

After Hill returned, Britain's Steve Batchelor was dismissed for verbal abuse of an umpire.

Then in fairly quick succession, New Zealand's captain Peter Daj, Grundy and Jamie Smith departed, all for foul tackles.

Britain won when Batchelor returned and lobbed over the New Zealand goalkeeper in the 60th minute.

Persson's serve lets him down

BARCELONA, Aug 5: Sweden's world champion Joergen Persson suffered the worst defeat of his career in a major tournament when he crashed 21-14, 21-18, 21-8 to China's Ma Wenge in the men's singles quarterfinals held Tuesday, reports Reuters.

"The main reason for my defeat was my serve. In the first game we were 13-13 and I lost four points on my serve and in the second, with the score on 15-15, I lost another four," said Persson, ranked three in the world.

World number one Jean-Philippe Gatien of France will meet Main the semifinal after struggling past Yi Ding of Austria 21-13, 20-22, 18-21, 21-18, 21-5.

The other semifinal will be between Kim Take of South Korea and Sweden's Jan-Over Waldner, ranked second.

Waldner ended a bad day for Germany's Jory Roskopf by beating him 21-15, 21-14, 18-21, 21-17.

Roskopf and Partner Steffen Fetzner had earlier lost the men's doubles final to China's Lu Lin and Wang Tao in five games.

Asian players won all four medals at the Seoul Games, the first where table tennis was a medal sport. They have won the men's and women's doubles in Barcelona.

Dutch spikers shock Italians on way to semis

BARCELONA, Aug 5: The Netherlands shocked world champions Italy 15-9, 12-15, 8-15, 15-2, 17-16 Wednesday to reach the Olympic men's volleyball semifinals, reports AP.

There was no upset in the second quarterfinal. Cuba beat Spain 16-14, 15-9, 15-6 and will contest one of Friday's semifinals against the Netherlands.

In other quarterfinal matches Wednesday Japan were to meet Brazil and the United States were to play the Unified Team.

The Netherlands, the tallest team in the tournament, with 10 men at 2 metres or more, the Dutch overcame the loss of setter Peter Blange, who went out at the end of the second set with a left ankle injury.

"Italy was our target, we prepared especially for Italy," said Dutch coach Arie Selinger.

The Dutch, who finished fifth at the 1988 Games in Seoul, eliminated the team that had dominated the game in the last four years and won the 1990 World Championship.

Italy was particularly outplayed in the fourth game, when they won only two points. The Italians recovered in the tiebreaker, saved three match points but finally fell to the big Dutch attack.

The Netherlands finished the preliminary round fourth in Pool B with a 2-3 record, while Italy won Pool A with a 4-1 record.

Selinger said that when he was designing his game plans before the Olympics he figured that the Dutch would send up playing Italy in the quarterfinals.

"We took a big gamble and we won," he said. He admitted that his team did not play at their maximum in some group matches. "You fight to win but there is a limit... we used some matches as training."

Italian team captain Andrea Lucchetta said Italy's defeat came in the fourth set.

"We failed, we failed totally in the fourth set," said Italian captain Andrea Lucchetta. For some reason the team couldn't do anything, we had a mental block."

"There was a feeling of impotence and fear that came over us and we were unable to perform. It's inadmissible in an Olympic quarterfinal."

Best possible debut for badminton

BARCELONA, Aug 5: Badminton has attracted some of the biggest television audiences of the Barcelona Olympics, with an estimated 1,000 million people in Asia watching Tuesday's finals, according to the sports' top official, reports Reuters.

Arthur Jones, president of the International Badminton Federation, said "Earlier in the week we were told we led the viewing figures — that 1,000 million people in Asia has seen Olympic badminton."

"I'm quite sure the same 1,000 million plus have been watching today."

"We are one of the major participation sports in the world. It's a well kept secret and sometimes it's not very

much acknowledged in press and media in certain parts of the world, but nevertheless we are," he added.

Badminton, making its Olympic debut, has a vast and enthusiastic following in Asia, particularly in Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea and China.

Indonesians Susi Susanti and her boyfriend Alland Budi Kusuma won the singles titles and South Korean pairs captured the men's and women's doubles.

Jones, 70, said: "We have had the most fabulous badminton competition with wonderful play and good crowds. I think it has been a great advertisement for badminton."

International Olympic Committee president Juan



Double gold winner Deng Yaping of China serves during her table tennis singles final against teammate Qiao Hong in Barcelona yesterday.

Deng's double

BARCELONA, Aug 5: China's Deng Yaping stifled a thrilling comeback by doubles partner Qiao Hong to win the women's singles title, her second gold of the Olympics, on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Deng's 21-6, 21-8, 15-21, 23-21 victory means China has won all three gold medals so far decided in Barcelona.

The world champion, who won the women's doubles with Qiao, is the first double gold medalist in the short history of Olympic table tennis.

Hyun Jung-Hwa of South Korea and Li Bun-Hut of North Korea won bronze medals and shared a platform on the medal podium.

The diminutive Deng, the top seed, was in astounding form in the first two sets against the number two seed. Despite her lack of height she seemed to overshadow the table, mixing attacking strokes with wonderful reflex returns and the occasional drop shot.

A long break before the third game seemed to affect Deng's concentration, however. The pace of her game slowed and Qiao was able to apply pressure for the first

time. Qiao won the third game 21-15, the first Deng had conceded here.

The fourth game was a thriller, full of tension and wonderful rallies, and Qiao had two game points at 20-19 and 21-20 to make it 2-2.

But Deng hung on an earned her first match point at 22-21.

Another great rally, with Deng attacking from far behind the baseline, ended with Qiao netting a forehand and the woman who was once considered too small to play in the Chinese national team was champion.

Deng, 25 and just 1.49 metres tall, is unbeaten in major singles tournaments since the 1988 Olympics which she missed. She uses a western-style handshake grip on the bat.

"My father was a trainer and he got me to change over when I was young," Deng said. "He's quite small, and I think he thought I would be quite small, so he thought it better if I held the bat the western way."

She is strong in all areas of the game and it is doubtful there is a player in the game, man or woman, who can match her reflexes.

When a dive isn't a dive

BARCELONA, Aug 5: His coach said the impact was like running into a wall at full speed, reports

Reuters. To Matthew Scoggin it felt like his back and legs had been seared by white hot metal for a few seconds.

In the last and most important competition of his life on Tuesday, the American miscalculated his dive during the Olympic platform final. From the height of a three-storey building, he fell flat on his back into the water.

"All athletes know disaster is a possibility," said a shaken Scoggin. "You can definitely get hurt up there."

In a few seconds of action destined for the great Olympic disasters file, Scoggin took off for his seventh dive, a tucked backward 3-1/2 somersaults.

Suddenly his left hand slipped off his knee, his tuck began to disintegrate and from then on it was a case of "let's try and get out of this alive."

Spinning wildly in the air, arms and legs flailing helplessly, the 28-year-old from Virginia hit the pool with the noise of raw steak on a concrete floor.

"I've never slipped on that dive before and I've never missed one as bad as that before. That was as flat as you can get—that was flat, flat," he said.

"It was an unusual time to do it," said coach Michael Brown.

"He made a mistake and that's what he got."

What he did not receive was any points. All seven judges marked him 0.0.

"He was in a state of shock for a little while but not really knocked out. His body took a huge hit," said Brown.

To his credit Scoggin completed the last three dives of the final to sympathetic applause from the crowd. He finished 10th out of 12.

A check-up at the pool clinic showed he had ruptured his lungs slightly. "I'm spitting up a little bit of blood and I'm a little short of breath. I can't take deep breaths."

"But if I'd landed with my head on one side I could have blown out my eardrum for sure."

Scoggin said he had decided to retire after the mishap. "But that is definitely it," he said.

Sun dives to come up with China's treble gold

BARCELONA, Aug 5: Sixteen-year-old Sun Shuwei swooped to the Olympic men's platform title on Tuesday to give China their third diving gold medal, reports Reuters.

World champion Sun amassed seven perfect 10.0 scores in his 10 dives, clinching the gold in phenomenal style with four judges awarding him the maximum mark for his last dive.

Sun amassed 99.96 points for that superb reverse 3-1/2 somersaults for an aggregate total of 677.31 which hoisted him well over 40 points clear of American challenger Scott Donie.

Donie took the silver with 633.63 points, with China's Xiong Ni adding a bronze to the silver he won at the 1988 Seoul Games. Xiong scored

60.15. Sun, however, had looked certain to win long before the last round, immune from the errors and disasters which befell several of his rivals on the 10-metre board.

He took the lead from Germany's Jan Hempel in the fourth round and collected two 10s with a backward 1-1/2 somersaults and 3-1/2 twists with his fifth dive and one more with his sixth, an armstand cut-through, reverse 1-1/2 somersaults.

Disaster struck American Matt Scoggin in the seventh round when he lost control during a backward 3-1/2 somersaults and crashed into the water flat on his back.

The failed dive received no points but the American gamely continued, to the admiration of the crowd who loudly applauded his return for

the next dive, and he managed to finish higher than two of his rivals.

Sun gave China the third of the four diving titles in the Montjuic pool, performing with a brilliance befitting the magnificent backdrop of the city panorama spread out below.

Fu Mingxia and Gao Min won the women's platform and springboard golds with similarly dominant performances.

Mark Lenzi broke the Chinese monopoly by winning the men's springboard crown to succeed fellow American Greg Louganis.

Sun, the youngest man in the 12-strong final, never faltered in the blazing sunshine but said the pressure had been tough.

"It has been rather stressful. I was anxious but I tried hard not to think about it," he said.



Chinese Sun Shuwei on way to winning the men's 10-metre platform diving gold on Tuesday in Barcelona.