

Cubans clinch baseball gold

BARCELONA, Aug 6: Cuba, back in the Olympics for the first time since 1980, won their fifth gold medal in Barcelona when their baseball team drubbed Taiwan 11-1 Wednesday night.

Japan beat the United States 8-3 for the bronze medal.

Khoka returns

Chef de Mission of the Bangladesh squad to the Barcelona Olympics and State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka returned home yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

He returned home midway through the Games on state business in response to an urgent call of the Prime Minister.

Khoka, who failed to accompany the national team on July 21 due to the budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad, left the capital for the Spanish city on July 28.

It is learnt that the fastest man of Bangladesh Golam Ambia and the 200-metre national champion Shahannuddin Chowdhury both finished 6th in their respective heats.

Mukhlisar Rahman, the only Bangladeshi swimmer in the Olympics, failed to compete in the 100-metre breast-stroke after reaching the venue through a wrong entry point. He, however, participated in the 200 metre breast-stroke.

Shooter Kazi Shahana Parveen placed 43rd out of 45 competitors in the women's air rifle event. However, this was an improvement of five points upon her previous best score.

Bangladesh to play DPRK on Sept 4

Bangladesh will meet North Korea in their opening match of the 5th Asian Youth Under-16 football Championship on September 4, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

The final round of the eight nation competition will be held in Saudi Arabia on September 4-13.

Bangladesh has been placed in Group A along with host Saudi Arabia, North Korea and Bahrain. United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Thailand and China have been placed in Group B.

Group three champions Bangladesh will take on Bahrain on Sept 6 and will face host Saudi Arabia on Sept 8.

In the other matches of the group, Saudi Arabia will play against Bahrain on Sept 4, North Korea will meet Saudi Arabia on Sept 6 and Bahrain will take on North Korea on Sept 8.

Both the semi-finals will be held on Sept 11 while the final match will take place on Sept 13.

Gooch praises Micky

LONDON, Aug 6: England captain Graham Gooch paid tribute on Wednesday to the contribution Micky Stewart has made to English cricket in his six years as team manager, reports Reuter.



OLYMPIC SPECIAL



Poles meet hosts in final

BARCELONA, Aug 6: Andrzej Juskowiak scored a hat-trick as Poland crushed Brazil 6-1 on Wednesday to set up an all-European Olympic final with Spain, reports Reuter.

Juskowiak, signed by Portugal's Sporting Lisbon, ended Australia's dream run with two strikes in a nine minute period either side of halftime and elevated himself to the role of leading tournament scorer with seven goals in six games.

His twin strike partner Wojciech Kowalczyk also grabbed two as Poland ran riot in the second half against a dispirited Australian side whose inexperience handed the Europeans four of their goals.

Ghana, like Australia a nation without soccer pedigree attempting to upset the form book, lost 2-0 in Valencia to hosts Spain, who have yet to concede a goal in the tournament.

Abelardo Fernandez put Spain ahead after 25 minutes and Rafael Berges sealed their

win gold. Fichtel-Mauritz won individual and team gold medals at the Seoul Olympics, but a silver was no mean feat for a woman whose training programme was heavily disrupted.

German fencing coach Emil Beck said: "She fenced superbly, especially when you consider that she could hardly train for four months."

Fichtel-Mauritz continued fencing up to the fifth month of pregnancy, when apart from anything else it presumably became difficult to do up her fencing suit.

Laurien was born in mid-June and Anja, 23, had only a few weeks' preparation before the Olympics, also finding time to get married.

Only a decision by German fencing selectors kept her from defending her individual foil Olympic crown, where the medal went to Italy, as in the team final.

Childbirth doesn't foil her chances

BARCELONA, Aug 6: Two months after having a baby, at a time when most women are still recovering from the birth, German fencer Anja Fichtel-Mauritz was winning an Olympic medal, reports Reuter.



FICHEL-MAURITZ

Fischer, Spassky in Belgrade

BELGRADE, Aug 6: Russian chess Grandmaster Boris Spassky has arrived in Yugoslavia for a controversial \$5 million match against American Bobby Fischer, organisers said Thursday, reports AP.

Fischer beat Spassky in 1972 to take the world title, but later forfeited the championship by refusing to defend it. He has not played in public since.

The two former world champions met late Wednesday after Spassky's arrival for an informal dinner in Belgrade and organisers of the match said they "made a couple of moves" at the table.

Sydney fancied for 2000 Games

LONDON, Aug 6: British bookmaker Ladbrokes Thursday made Sydney the 5-4 favourite to host the 2000 Olympic Games ahead of 9-4 Beijing, reports AP.

Although the International Olympic Committee will not name the host city until next year, Ladbrokes reported increased betting since the start of the Barcelona Games.

S Africa to play 3 Tests in Lanka

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 6: South Africa will play three five-day Tests on their tour of Sri Lanka this time next year, United Cricket Board of South Africa managing director Ali Bacher said here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The tour, from August 10 to September 15, will also include three one-day internationals and three three-day practice games, Bacher said.

No gold for Ivanisevic

BARCELONA, Aug 6: Marc Rosset of Switzerland ousted Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, the last of the top dozen seeds, in Olympic tennis Thursday, advancing to the gold medal match, reports AP.

Rosset, who is unseeded, beat No 4 Ivanisevic 6-3, 7-5, 6-2.

In Saturday's final, he will face the winner of Thursday's other semifinal between Spaniard Jordi Arrese and Andrei Cherkasov of Russia.

Ivanisevic, the first Croat to clinch a medal, earned a bronze by winning four consecutive five-set matches to reach the semifinals.

Barcelona native Sanchez Vicario and her partner delighted a partisan, hometown crowd by beating Rachel McQuillan and Nicole Provis of Australia 6-1, 6-2.



Jennifer Capriati of the US celebrates after beating Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the women's tennis singles semifinal on Monday.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

In the women's doubles semifinals, top-seeded Spaniards Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez swept an Australian duo Thursday on their way to a gold medal showdown Americans Mary Joe Fernandez and Gigi Fernandez.

Barcelona native Sanchez Vicario and her partner delighted a partisan, hometown crowd by beating Rachel McQuillan and Nicole Provis of Australia 6-1, 6-2.

Fernandez duo in final

BARCELONA, Aug 6: Americans Mary Joe and Gigi Fernandez advanced to the Olympic final in doubles Thursday by beating Lella Meskhi and Natalia Zvereva of the Unified Team, 6-4, 7-5, reports AP.

Fernandez-Fernandez, who are not related, meet the winner of the day's other semifinal pitting Spaniards Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez against Rachel McQuillan and Nicole Provis of Australia on Saturday.

The victory kept the US women's team in contention for two golds. Jennifer Capriati will compete in the singles final Friday against top-seeded German Steffi Graf.

The US duo lost only one service game to the Unified Team and broke Meskhi twice in the second set. Fernandez-Fernandez had six break points in the next-to-last game and came through when Meskhi hit a volley wide to give them a 6-5 lead.

Fischer refused to speak to reporters after his arrival in Yugoslavia and it was unclear whether the coming match with Spassky would mark Fischer's return to chess competitions.

Belgrade media said that Fischer has been training for the match by analyzing chess games, weight lifting, swimming and jogging. They said that both Spassky and Fischer appear physically fit and in a good mood.

New plan to break Maradona-Napoli deadlock

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 6: Argentine Football Association president Julio Grondona will meet International Football Federation (FIFA) officials next week to break the deadlock over Diego Maradona's release from Italian club Napoli, reports Reuter.

The Noticias Argentinas news agency said Grondona had also invited Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino to the meeting in Zurich next Monday or Tuesday.

"We want to reach an agreement which takes account of both financial and sporting interests," the agency quoted Grondona as saying.

If Napoli refuse to attend the meeting, Grondona will seek a FIFA ruling to settle the matter.

Maradona whose 15-month drugs ban from world soccer expired at the end of June, has said he will not return to Napoli, but wanted to play for another European club for a year and then return to Argentina's Boca Juniors for two seasons before retiring.

His agent Marcos Franchi has talked to French club Marseille and Sevilla of Spain about a possible transfer.

Maradona, who has been following a rigorous training programme for several months, told a local radio station on Wednesday his separation from Napoli was "very difficult".

He added that he would travel to Barcelona this week to attend Saturday's Olympic soccer final.

Akram burst causes English collapse

Pakistan were 16 for no loss in reply to England's 207 all out on the first day of the fifth and final Test between England and Pakistan at the Oval yesterday, according to BBC monitored in Dhaka last night.

Aamir Sohail on nine and Rameez Raja on seven were the batsmen at the crease when stumps were drawn.

Earlier, a devastating spell of swing bowling at searing pace by left-arm pacesman Wasim Akram saw the last five English wickets go down for only 14 runs. Akram finishing with the marvellous final figures of six for 67 runs.

On a fine sunny morning English skipper Graham Gooch won the toss and elected to bat.

Both the English openers, Gooch and Alec Stewart, played some positive strokes on a wicket where the ball came on to the bat. But once these openers fell to indelible strokes England's hope of piling up an impressive total vanished.

Michael Atherton battled three and half hours for his 90, the highest in the innings, before nicking one to debutant wicketkeeper Rashid Latif behind the stumps off Waqar Younis.

Sports Reporter

for 67. Anqib Javed took two for 44 while Mushtaq and Waqar took one wicket apiece.

The c was more trouble for England when Robin Smith had to dou the gloves after Alec Stewart suffered a bruise on his legs while batting.

An earlier AP report said: England faltered after a fast start to the fifth Test at the Oval Thursday, losing both openers to be two for 89 at lunch.

Captain Graham Gooch and Alec Stewart began quickly, advancing the score at four runs an over. But with the score on 39, Gooch was caught by Asif Mujtaba at short-leg off Anqib Javed for 20.

Despite punishing pace bowler Wasim Akram with three successive boundaries, the Pakistan all-rounder had his revenge when Rameez Raja at deep square-leg caught Stewart for 31 with the score at 57.

At lunch Mike Atherton was 17 and Robin Smith 12. England captain Gooch won the toss and chose to bat.

England left out pacesman Tim Munton from their squad of 12 while Pakistan made two changes from the side which lost the fourth Test at Headingley where England levelled the series 1-1.

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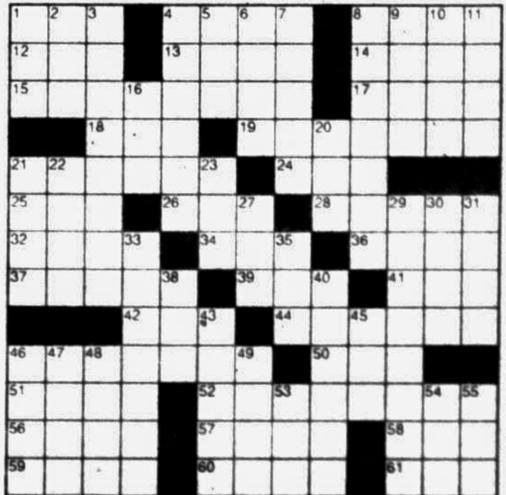
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Marsh woman 4 Do clerical work 8 Poison 12 "Town" 13 Unyielding 14 What there ought to be 15 Norm 17 Beauty (apple) 18 Nancy Drew's boyfriend 19 Pubic arguments 21 Eileen Ford's personnel 24 New-comer to society 25 Chicken-link 26 Listening device 28 Nye or Armstrong 32 Eyeglass wearer's options 34 Take blades to blades? 36 Look amorously 37 Prepare to propose 39 Service- woman 41 City near Marseilles 42 Speck 44 January stone 46 D C VIP 50 Silent assent 51 Hit bottom? 52 Dilemma 56 Cord (apple) 57 Destroy 58 Teachers' org. 59 Got ready for a drive 60 Captain Hook's alma mater 61 Ms. Piggy? 20 - canto 21 100 pfennig 22 Ken of "thirty-something" 23 Houston or Rayburn 27 Obey the coxswain 29 People of Kampala 30 Netman Nastase 31 Fourth canonical hour 33 Tranquilized 35 Comical sort 38 Sodom evacuee 40 Howitzer 43 Close-fitting hat 45 Staff 46 Season 47 Author Wiesel 48 Diamond squad 49 Litter's littlest 53 Bother 54 Speed-wagon letters 55 Go off course



Solution time: 23 mins. OLE PUMA PORT PET AFAR ARIA AVA ROYALROAD LILAC MAR BETA ROWEL ROYALISM TALE UNA SETAL CIA GERM ROYAL OAK ARDOR RARA LEA AGILE ROYALPALM TOR ADAR ANAI EGG HEMS RIPE RES

CRYPTOQUIP

BC "EVZC EBLCVFVL" HWPCVZC, UV HBQQVF CUVZUWCZ.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals B

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.