

Lewis & co set world record

BARCELONA, Aug 8: The US team of Mike Marsh, Leroy Burrell, Dennis Mitchell and Carl Lewis broke the world record in winning the 400-metre relay Saturday in a time of 37.40 seconds, reports AP.

Nigeria finished second in 37.98. The bronze went to Cuba in 38.00.

The previous record was 37.50, set last year by the US team of Andre Cason, Burrell, Mitchell and Lewis.

Zelezny's new javelin record

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Czechoslovakia's Jan Zelezny broke his own Olympic javelin record Saturday with a throw of 89.66 metres (294 feet, 2 inches), reports AP.

Zelezny set his old standard of 85.90 metres (281-10 at Seoul). His heave fell just short of the world record of 91.46 metres (300-1) held by Britain's Steve Backley.

Baumann gives FRG 5000m gold

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Dieter Baumann of Germany won the gold medal in the 5,000-metre run Saturday in a time of 13 minutes, 12.52 seconds, reports AP.

Paul Bitok of Kenya won the silver in 13:12.71 and Fita Bayisa of Ethiopia got the bronze in 13:13.03.

Kriveleva wins shot put gold

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Svetlana Kriveleva of the Unified Team won the Olympic women shot put gold medal with a throw of 21.06m here on Friday, reports AP.

China's Huang Zhihong, the world champion, earned the silver medal with 20.47 and German Kathrin Neimke, runner-up in Seoul and the European Championship bronze medalist, was third with 19.78.

Kriveleva's previous best international performance was her victory at last year's World Student Games.

Spaniard men's 1500m champ

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Fermín Cacho of Spain won the gold medal in the men's 1,500-metre run Saturday in a time 3 minutes, 40.12 seconds, reports AP.

Rachid El-Bastr of Morocco won the silver in 3:40.62. The bronze went to Mohamed Sulaiman of Qatar, who finished in 3:40.69.

CIS handballers clinch gold

BARCELONA, Aug 8: The Unified Team won the Olympic men's handball gold medal with a 22-20 victory over Sweden in the final here today, reports AP.

The teams were level 9-9 at half-time.

Smith's second Olympic gold

BARCELONA, Aug 8: American featherweight John Smith remained the strongest man of his class when he overwhelmed Iranian Asgari Mohammadian 6-0 in the Olympic freestyle wrestling 62 kg final, reports AP.

It was his sixth honour at the weight, and his second successive Olympic gold.

Former 57 kg world bantamweight champion Alejandro Puerto Diaz outpointed reigning holder Sergei Smal of the Unified Team 5-0 to bring Cuba their second Olympic wrestling gold in history.

Cuba's first wrestling gold was won by Hector Milian Perez in the Greco-Roman 100 kg super-heavyweight division.

The 62 kg class bronze went to another Cuban, Lazaro Martinez, when he beat Bulgaria's Rossen Vasilev 3-0.

North Korean Kim Yongseik narrowly beat Turkey's Remiz Musaglu 3-2 in the 57 kg class bronze medal playoff.

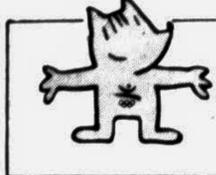
World middleweight champion Kevin Jackson lifted the United States' third freestyle gold of the Games when he narrowly beat Elmadji Jabratov 1-0 in an 82 kg final which left the Unified Team fuming over the refereeing.

Iranian Rasul Khadem Azghadi took the bronze with a top-sided 6-0 win over German Hans Ostetner.

The Unified Team wrapped up their wrestling medal haul with a sixth gold, including three in Greco-Roman style, when Russian Makharbek Khadartsev won his second straight Olympic light-heavyweight title.

Khadartsev, who has won five consecutive World Championships since 1986, beat Turkey's Kenan Simsek 1-0 in the 90 kg final.

Christopher Campbell landed the bronze by outpointing Mongolia's Puntang Sukhbat 3-1.



OLYMPIC SPECIAL



Drechsler redeems discredited east

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Heike Drechsler salvaged some pride for the discredited East German sports juggernaut on Friday when she won the women's Olympic long jump, reports Reuter.

In a week in which the Katrin Krabbe doping scandal revived the former East Germany's reputation as hotbed of doping, Drechsler turned the tables on US rival Jackie Joyner-Kersey to win a superb

The 27-year-old Drechsler had some harsh words for Krabbe, who is involved in her second major doping scandal of the year after avoiding a ban in June because of a legal technicality.

"If Krabbe has not learned from her mistakes then she should be punished. I don't understand how she has not learned," Drechsler said.

Former athletes and trainers have admitted that the former GDR used systematic doping to fuel some of their

But the communists, using sport to demonstrate the power of their ideology, still stopped her from having a baby for several years because it would interfere with her sporting career.

After unification in 1990, Drechsler dropped politics. Now a mother of a two-year-old son, Drechsler said she was proud to stand on the rostrum and listen to the anthem which once belonged to the former West Germany.

"It was a nice feeling after the two years when we have been through a lot and had many new experiences," she said.

She has one more experience to add to the list now — victory over Joyner-Kersey in a major championship.

Since winning the world title in 1983, with Joyner-Kersey not competing, Drechsler has had to play second fiddle to the American. She finished second behind her at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and at last year's World Championships in Tokyo.

After trailing Linessa Kravets of the CIS and Joyner-Kersey in the opening rounds, the German found her best form in the fourth round with a jump of 7.14 metres. Kravets' 7.12 and Joyner-Kersey's 7.07 in the opening round earned them the silver and bronze medals respectively.

Joyner-Kersey, Drechsler friend despite seven years of rivalry in the long-jump pit, hugged the German at the end.

"I am very happy for Heike. Today was Heike's day," she said. "It took away some of my disappointment to see someone in front of me who has trailed me for many years."



HEIKE DRECHSLER...gold at last

gold for unified Germany.

Drechsler was always billed as the model sports star of the former communist state before double world sprint champion Krabbe took over her position as the GDR's most prominent female athlete at the 1990 European Championships.

After this week's revelations that Krabbe had tested positive for an anabolic stimulant, Drechsler's victory finally brought some good news to the German camp.

remarkable past success. Drechsler said she did not need them.

"I don't need drugs. I have too much talent for that. You can't tar all the people with the same brush," she said. "I know what I can do and I do it without doping."

Drechsler played a leading role in the political life of the GDR and was a member of the former East German Parliament before the Berlin Wall fell in the autumn of 1989.

Tulu, Meyer usher in new Africa

BARCELONA, Aug 8: A black Ethiopian and a white South African symbolised the new Africa at the Olympics with a display of courage and camaraderie, reports Reuter.

Derartu Tulu and Elana Meyer turned the women's 10,000 metres final in to a classic duel on Thursday.

It ended with Tulu out-sprinting the South African to win Ethiopia's first women's athletics medal. Lynn Jennings of United States, the world cross-country champion, took the bronze.

Ethiopia have been a strength in men's long distance running since Abebe Bikila padded barefoot through a hot Roman night to win the 1960 Olympic men's marathon title.

But, in common with other black African nations, women have only recently come into the limelight.

"I'm very happy that I'm the first woman," Tulu said with a shy smile. "Abebe Bikila was the first man, I'm the first

woman."

Ethiopia boycotted the last two Olympics while South Africa returned to the Olympic movement after 32 years in the wilderness.

Even four years ago it would have seemed unthinkable that a South African and an Ethiopian would run together in an Olympic Games.

The world has changed with dizzying speed since 1988 and the obvious friendship between the two women from vastly different backgrounds supplied one of the more delightful cameos of the Barcelona Games.

"I think it was a very special moment because we did it for Africa," Meyer said. "I think African women have the talent to be formidable runners."

"I believe we were running for Africa and this is an example for Africa."

The race took a predictable pattern early on as Britain's gold medalist Liz McColgan took the lead and began to grind out the laps with her familiar single-minded intensity.

Meyer sensed the pace was too slow. With 10 and a half laps to go, she shot to the front and proceeded to break up the field.

McColgan, unable to adjust, slipped behind and it was Tulu who responded by joining Meyer at the front.

As the race unfolded, it was obvious Meyer was starting to feel the strain in strength-sapping 85 per cent humidity.

Grimacing with the effort, she glanced behind continually to see Tulu still in close attendance and waiting for her moment to pounce.

With almost ritualistic inevitability, the 20-year-old Tulu eased to the front at the bell, stepped up a gear and poured on the pace over the final lap to win in 31 minutes 08.02 — an African record — but more than five seconds ahead of Meyer.

"She finished so strong at the end," Meyer marvelled. "I think she raced a great race."

Meyer seemed genuinely delighted both with Tulu's success and her own silver medal.

It was for the whole of South Africa — the real South Africa," she said.

Torrence takes back her taunts

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Olympic women's 200 metres champion Gwen Torrence apologised on Friday for accusing some of her rivals of being drugs cheats, reports Reuter.

American Torrence, who accused three fellow-competitors of taking dope after she finished fourth in Saturday's 100 metres final, said in a statement she had spoken out too strongly.

"I am deeply committed to the need to get rid of drugs in sport, as well as use by American kids on the street," the statement said.

"But my passion for that effort caused me to speak out with a strong opinion about drug abuse in sport which has been misinterpreted by some."

"I have not accused specific athletes of cheating but my personal opinions have come across perhaps too strongly."

Although Torrence did not name names, Bob Kersee, coach of gold medalist and fellow-American Gail Devers, reacted angrily to her remarks, denying that his athlete had taken drugs except to treat a thyroid condition.

"I am sorry that any of my opinions expressed here have bought harm to anyone, especially great athletes and my teammates in particular in Barcelona," Torrence said.

The American also defended athletics officials with remarks at her post-victory news conference on Thursday about German sprinter Katrin Krabbe.

Krabbe is not in Barcelona following a long-running doping controversy and has admitted this week taking the banned drug clenbuterol.

Torrence, silver medalist to Krabbe in the 100 and 200 metres finals at last year's World Championships, said: "I always felt she was on drugs. I really believed she was a cheat."

Somehow she will find a way of getting back. She is the great white hope."

The remarks, from a black athlete, were interpreted by some officials as racist and sources in the American Olympic team said International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) president Primo Nebiolo had inquired about Torrence's statements. They said Torrence had then been asked to refrain from outspoken claims.

"One of my statements at the press conference on Thursday night may have been in bad taste and against the rules of my delegation," Torrence said.

"You will hear no more opinions from me in Barcelona about other athletes competing unfairly and I will battle drugs in my own way for the rest of my career and will continue to tell kids of those dangers."

IAAF spokeswoman Jayne Pearce said later that Nebiolo had sent a letter to the US Olympic Committee saying Torrence's comments were unacceptable and were liable to bring the sport in to disrepute.

Nebiolo also asked for an explanation, she said.

AFP from Barcelona adds: Owen Torrence may be asked to leave the Olympics early if she persists in accusing other competitors of taking drugs.

"We are talking to Owen Torrence now," said United States Olympic Committee spokesman Mike Moran.

"She is accusing competi-



Bronze medalist Joe Greene (L), Olympic champion Carl Lewis (C) and silver medal winner Mike Powell (all USA) stand on the podium after the men's long jump competition in Barcelona Friday.

Bubka provides biggest shock

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Sergei Bubka's very excellence in the pole vault played a major part in his own downfall in the Olympic final here Friday, according to his colleagues in the highly technical event, reports AP.

American pole vaulter Tim Bright said the swirling winds in the Montjuic Stadium were hard on everyone, but would have affected Bubka especially badly.

In Seoul he secured the gold medal on his third and final attempt, and last year at the World Championships in Tokyo, when he was suffering from a heel injury, he went to the wire to win his third world title.

Even when he is setting world records with ease, Bubka seems to delight in tantalising the spectators and himself, a trait that has made him popular on the Grand Prix circuit.

So although he seemed ill at

tempts at 5.70, he made what he called his biggest mistake of the evening, choosing a pole that was too flexible for his try at 5.75.

The 28-year-old, who had won all but one of the major competitions he entered since he won the 1983 World Championships, did not hang around to analyse the disaster any further.

He had arrived an odds-on favourite to retain his Olympic title, and it seemed unthinkable that he would go out with-



Sergei Bubka, the multiple world pole vault record holder, falls on the mat after failing to clear the bar on Friday.

"The worst thing about the wind was it was coming from different directions," Bright said. "It's hardest for Bubka, because he has the stiffest poles and holds the pole far higher than other vaulters because he's quicker on his run-up."

"With that kind of pole, it is far more difficult in the wind," Bubka, who set his 14th world record on June 13 with a vault of 6.11m, admitted the wind was a problem.

After failing on two at-

tempt clearing a height. Eventual winner Maxim Tarasov, who had never seen Bubka beaten in a competition, much less beaten himself, said the absence of Bubka changed the entire tone of the event.

"It was a shock. It changed the competition. Before I was just thinking about my jumping. From then on I began thinking about the medals."

Bubka has come perilously close to wiping out in major tournaments before.

case on the runway, it was hard to believe he was really in trouble.

Certainly none of the other competitors believed he had seen the last of the ebullient Ukrainian.

"Sergei Bubka's elimination was a big surprise to all of us," said gold medalist Tarasov, who won the Unified Team trials that Bubka was excused from.

"But I think physically he is well prepared and after the games he will prove it."

Samaranch teams up with 'Magic' against AIDS

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch on Friday pledged to help US basketball star Magic Johnson in the worldwide fight against AIDS, reports Reuter.

Johnson, who admitted last November that he had tested HIV-positive, told joint news conference with Samaranch: "We need a big voice, someone who can carry a big bat, not a small bat. Here's the man."

Samaranch, the International Olympic Committee president, said: "I promised Magic that he would have the help of the IOC in the fight against AIDS. In what way we will see."

Johnson responded: "I really appreciate his help. It came from the heart. The fight can only get better if people jump on board."

"This fight is not just in the United States but worldwide. With the ability of the IOC to reach people, just look at how many athletes are here, how many lives they have touched."

Johnson, whose revelation profoundly shocked Americans who consider him one of their greatest sporting heroes, stressed: "I did not come here

to ask for money from the IOC."

"I came here to ask for his help. It's not about financial matters. It's about getting the word out, spreading it out to young people and letting them know that the virus and AIDS is out there in a big way."

The 32-year-old Johnson, a big hit with the basketball



SAMARANCH

crowds in Barcelona, thanked the IOC for letting him play.

"We were able in this Olympics to educate the world that life goes on no matter what, that it is OK to play and hit and rub and everything will be alright."

"We educated people who don't have the virus that it is alright to shake their hand.

Kenyans complete a steeplechase hat-trick

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Mathew Birir headed a Kenyan clean sweep of the Olympic 3,000 metres steeplechase medals here yesterday, reports AP.

Birir clocked eight minutes 8.84 seconds to lead home Patrick Sang, who was second, and William Mutwol was third.

Birir, the 1990 junior champion, was the surprise winner of the Kenyan trials aheads of better-known faces such as Mutwol, Sang and Moses Kiptanui, who did not even make the squad.

Sang won the silver in a time of 8:09.55, while Mutwol clocked 8:10.74.

For the second major event in a row Sang has had to settle for second place behind another Kenyan. He finished runner-up to Moses Kiptanui in last year's World Championships.

Italian Alessandro Lambroschini saw the Olympic medals pass him by yet again as he repeated the fourth place he had in Seoul.

The youngest of the trio, Birir, moved in front with a lap to go.

For the world junior record holder, who lost a show on the way to victory, it was almost four seconds faster than his previous best. It was also the third time a Kenyan had won the steeplechase in successive Olympics.

US shot putter flunks dope test

BARCELONA, Aug 8: American shot putter Bonnie Dasse was expelled from the Olympics on Saturday for testing positive to the banned substance clenbuterol, the second US athlete kicked out of these Games, reports AP.

International Olympic Committee spokeswoman Michelle Verdier said it would be up to the US Track and Field Federation to determine what other sanctions might be leveled against Dasse.

The US Olympic Committee said Saturday that Dasse, who finished eighth in her preliminary heat and failed to qualify for the finals, already had left Barcelona.

The IOC said clenbuterol is banned because it is an anabolic-type agent that promotes the healing and growing of muscle. It has an anabolic effect in animals, the IOC said.

One of clenbuterol's known uses is to beef up cattle in the United States. It is available as a licensed asthma drug in Germany, but not in the United States.

Hammer thrower Jud Logan of the United States, a surprise fourth-place finisher, was expelled earlier this week for testing positive to the same drug. He was the first US athlete to test positive for a banned substance at the Olympics in 16 years.

The last Americans to test positive for a banned substance at the Olympics were weightlifters Marc Cameron and Philippe Grippaldi at the 1976 Games in Montreal.

Two other athletes have been expelled from the Barcelona Games for testing positive for banned substances.

The first was Wu Dan, a member of China's women's volleyball team who tested positive for the stimulant strychnine. The second was women's marathoner Madina Biktagrova, who won the Los Angeles marathon in March and who finished fourth in Barcelona. She tested positive for the stimulant norephedrine.

Two British weightlifters were sent home from the Games by British Officials because a random test in Britain before the Olympics showed they had taken clenbuterol.

Katrin Krabbe, the women's world champion in the 100 and 200 metres, tested positive for clenbuterol in Germany last month.

Prosecutor's said Thursday they had opened a criminal investigation against Krabbe's trainer.

Lithuanian cagers outplay CIS

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Sarunas Marculionis had 29 points and Arvidas Sabonis added 28 and Lithuania beat the Unified Team 82-78 Saturday for the bronze medal in Olympic basketball, reports AP.

With four members of the Soviet Union's gold medal team from 1988 on each side, Lithuania came up with the medal thanks to two of those Olympic champions.

The teams had met in the preliminary round and Lithuania (6-2) blew a 19-point lead in the final 15 minutes to lose 92-80.

Oscar Schmidt scored 23 points and Brazil beat Australia 90-80 for fifth place.

The finish in the 12-team field matches Brazil's effort in Seoul, when Australia finished fourth.

The 7-foot-3 Sabonis had 16 rebounds and he dominated the early stretch of the second half.