

Pakistan's late flourish fetches hockey bronze

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Pakistan scored three goals in the final seven minutes Saturday to sweep past the Netherlands 4-3 and clinch the Olympic men's field hockey bronze medal, reports AP.

Germany and Australia were meeting later Thursday to decide the gold medal.

Pakistan were down 0-2 at the end of the first half after Marc Delissen and Stephan Veen each scored on field shots for the Dutch.

With 15 minutes left of the game, Muhammad Shehbaz put Pakistan on the scoreboard with a field shot, making it 1-2.

Khalid Bashir fired in a field shot to even the score with seven minutes left.

Qamar Muhammad's field shot four minutes later gave Pakistan a 3-2 lead. Then Khalid Bashir scored an insurance goal on a penalty corner with two minutes left to make it 4-2.

Gisj Weterings slapped in a last-minute field shot for the Netherlands to make it 4-3.

German rowers to the fore

CASTELLDEFELS, Spain, Aug 8: Germany won three gold and two silver medals Saturday as canoeing and kayaking concluded at the Olympics, reports AP.

Hungary won two of the six gold medals Saturday and also had one silver and one bronze.

The German team of Kay Bluhm and Torsten Gutsche won the gold in the kayak doubles 1,000 finishing in 3 minutes 16.10 seconds. Sweden was next at 3:17.70, followed by Poland in 3:18.86.

The Germans also won the four-man kayak 1,000 in 2:54.18. Hungary almost nipped them in the sprint but had to settle for silver with 2:54.82. Australia won the bronze in 2:56.97.

Clint Robinson of Australia won the gold for the single kayak 1,000 meters in 3:37.26 seconds. Knut Holmann of Norway took the silver in 3:37.50. American Greg Barton, who won the gold in Seoul four years ago, got the bronze in 3:37.93.

In the women's kayak 500 meters, Hungary won the gold in 1:38.32. Germany took the silver in 1:38.47 and Sweden earned the bronze in 1:39.79.

In the men's doubles canoe 1,000, Germany's Ulrich Papke and Ingo Spelly won in 3:37.42, ahead of silver medalist Arne Nielson and Christian Frederiksen of Denmark in 3:39.26. The bronze medal winners were Didier Hoyer and Olivier Botvin of France in 3:39.51.

OLYMPIC QUOTES

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Drugs again cast a shadow over the Olympic arena and there was no shortage of comment from athletes and officials during the last week of the Barcelona Games.

"I don't need drugs. I have too much talent for that" - Germany's Heike Drechsler after winning the women's long jump.

"We have a war going on in Sarajevo, so what are one or two pills?" - Bosnian team official on being asked whether a member of his squad had been hauled before IOC dope controllers.

"She was very sincere. She thought it was a good tonic" - IOC medical commission chairman Prince Alexandre de Merode after the ban on Chinese volleyball player Wu Dan who took a folk medicine containing strychnine and tested positive.

"I always felt she was on drugs. I really believed she was a cheat" - 200 metres champion Gwen Torrence on absent arch-rival Katrin Krabbe, who failed a dope test in Germany during the Olympics.

"I will battle drugs in my own way for the rest of my career and will continue to tell kids of the dangers" - Gwen Torrence again.

"Let's try and get out of this alive" - American Matthew Scoggin, recalling his thoughts as he messed up a high dive and fell flat on his back into the pool, rupturing this lungs.

"Come down here and I'll f...kill you" - Australian boxer Stefan Scriggins yelling at barracking spectators after losing a welterweight bout.

"My horse was perfect. I was perfect" - Germany's Nicole Uphoff after winning the dressage individual gold.

"The Lord will say when it's time to stop and move on to the next phase" - Carl Lewis, 31, after winning his third Olympic long jump title.

"If we miss it will be the biggest upset in the history of sports" - US basketball "Dream Team" star Charles Barkley before Saturday's final against Croatia.

"One more to go. Kill these mother f...s and let God sort them out later" - "Bad Boy" Barkley again.

"I came to Barcelona mainly to watch the other sports" - surprise tennis finalist Marc Rosset of Switzerland.

"We played some bloody good hockey" - British coach Norman Hughes after his men's team were thrashed 6-0 by Australia.

"The human being is the greatest mystery of the universe" - Italian volleyball coach Julio Velasco after his team's shock defeat by the Netherlands in the quarter-finals.

"No storm is going to put out our fire" - Olympic organiser on the threat of heavy rain at the closing ceremony.



OLYMPIC SPECIAL



Ghana's bronze augurs well for Africa

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Isaac Asare's spectacular goal from a free-kick saw Ghana take Africa's first Olympic football medal of any kind here on Friday, reports AFP.

Asare's 35-metre effort proved to be the only goal in the third place play-off against Australia at Barcelona's almost-deserted Nou Camp stadium.

But there was no shortage of chances and Australia were more guilty of missing them than the eventual bronze medal winners.

Even in the dying minutes, after Ghana had seen substitute Shamo Quaye sent off, Australia threw away opportunities to equalise.

John Markovski volleyed wide from near the penalty spot, Steve Refenes had a shot blocked from point-blank range and Tony Vidmar blasted wide of the target, one of six shots he missed.

Australia's agony started in the 15th minute when Ned Zelic was brought down by Ghanaian defender Frank Amankwah in the penalty area. Paul Okon's spot kick was so soft that goalkeeper Ibrahim Dossey had no problems punching the ball away.

Three minutes later Asare gave them a lesson in taking chances.

Dominic Longo brought down Ghana's top scorer Kwame Ayame. Asare blasted the ball over the bedraggled wall and bent it out of the reach of the desperately-diving John Filan in the Australian goal.

In a rough-and-tumble finish to the half, Shaun Murphy went off with a bloody nose and Ghana's Nii Lamptey was

booked for a foul on Steve Refenes before being substituted.

Just before the break, Yaw Preko smashed a shot against the Australian post and the Ghanaians completed the half clearly in control.

The tide turned in the second half but Australia never took advantage of it.

Vidmar had a 30-metre shot go just wide of the right hand post, Refenes also went agonisingly close.

Ghana's substitute goalkeeper Simon Addo walked into some immediate luck when, from a free-kick in a similar position to the Ghana goal, Zelic laid the ball across to Vidmar who again missed by inches.

Even Quaye's marching orders for a second yellow card offence, the second game running that a Ghana defender had been sent off, did not alter Australia's luck.

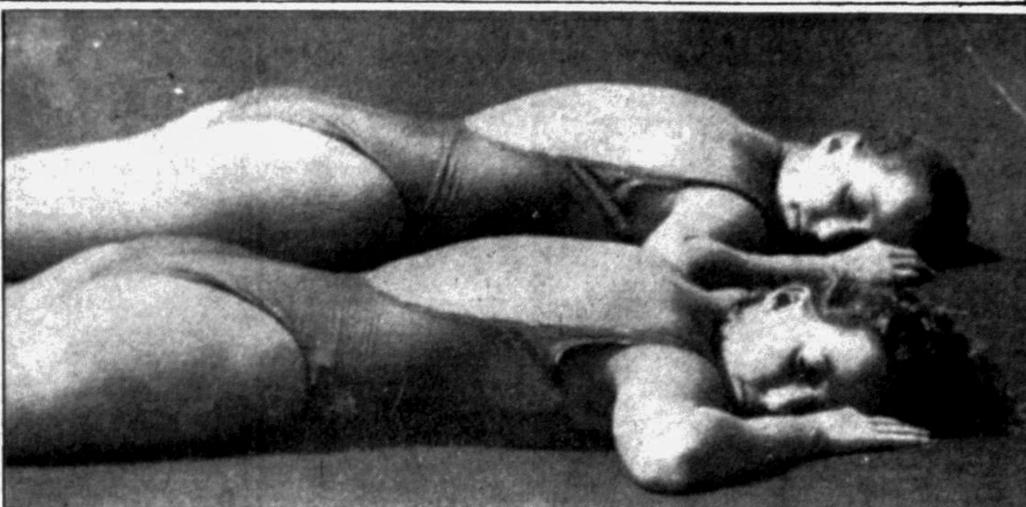
Ghana's bronze thus enhanced Africa's growing soccer reputation.

Ghana featured the nucleus of the team that won the under-17 world youth championship last year and their win ended the country's 20-year Olympic medal drought.

Ghanaian goalkeeper Ibrahim Dossey was the hero, stopping a penalty and pulling off several superb saves.

Ghana's victory also signalled the end of the European-South American domination of the soccer tournament, which for the first time was an under-23 age limit event.

Japan's third place in 1960 was the only time since Canada won in 1904 that a country from outside the two major continental soccer powers had won a medal.



Canadian synchronised swimming team Penny and Vicky Vilagos take a break by the poolside in Barcelona Thursday. -AFP photo

Britain bag bronze

TERRASSA, Spain, Aug 8: Britain won the women's Olympic hockey bronze on Friday. They beat South Korea 4-3 with centre forward Jane Sixsmith scoring the winner in extra time, reports Reuter.

After a hard-fought attacking match, Sixsmith flicked in a penalty corner goal late in the first period of extra time to clinch Britain first women's hockey medal.

Spanish coach Jose Manuel Brasa remained stonyfaced despite the shock victory on Friday. He also had to field a German complaint that one Spanish goal should not have been allowed.

Spain, which had never rated higher than fifth in the world before, beat Germany when Elisabeth Maragall, a 21-year-old student, deflected on a cross with a sprawling dive in extra time before 10,000 cheering fans.

Spain had earlier beaten both 1988 Olympic champions Australia and South Korea, the runners-up, as they produced a

Hosts win eves' hockey gold

TERRASSA, Spain, Aug 8: Spain won the women's Olympic hockey gold medal on their Olympic debut. They beat Germany 2-1 but the fairy tale final was marred by a protest over a local favourite kept on the bench throughout the Games, reports Reuter.

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Spain had earlier beaten both 1988 Olympic champions Australia and South Korea, the runners-up, as they produced a

string of upsets in their first Olympic hockey contest. Germany's silver was a repeat of their result in the 1984 Games. Britain's women, fourth in 1988, claimed the bronze.

Despite the win, the Spanish camp was downcast. Some in the crowd in Terrassa, a small town outside Barcelona which has hosted the Olympic hockey, had whistled and set up banners to complain that Celia Correa, from Terrassa, had been a permanent substitute for seven games.

"This has had a negative effect on the squad," said coach Brasa. "I'm not totally happy."

Correa, 28, collected a gold medal along with the other 15 members of the squad. "It's an official medal," Brasa said. "The hockey federation and the Olympic organisers said all the players would get medals...The success you have on the day is a result of the training by all the squad."

Many other nations in the hockey contest, unsure if substitutes would be eligible for medals have made sure that all players have been on the pitch, at least for a few minutes.

The Spanish celebrations were also dampened by a complaint by Germany coach Rudiger Hanel that Spain's first goal, which came after just eight minutes when Maria del Carmen Barea struck in a penalty corner, was above knee height. Hentger said he would not formally protest.

Brasa denied the shot was too high and said Spain, dominant late in the match, had another goal disallowed which he considered legitimate.

Germany's penalty corner striker Franziska Hentschel scored Germany's only goal in the 12th minute from the set-piece in a game when each side created exciting chances but were often foiled by acrobatic goalkeeping.

Savon savours Olympic success

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Cuba's Felix Savon, who has three World Championships, got his first Olympic gold medal Saturday by beating David Izonritel of Nigeria in the heavyweight boxing finals, reports AP.

American Oscar De La Hoya, fulfilling a promise made to his dying mother, won the lightweight gold medal with a decision over reigning world champion Marco Rudolph of Germany.

The win avoided the first boxing gold medal shutout for the United States since the 1948 Olympics.

The first two Cubans to fight for the gold Saturday both won, but Michael Carruth of Ireland snapped the Cuban winning streak by taking the welterweight (67 kilogram) gold medal with a 13-10 win over Cuba's Juan Hernandez.

Carruth leaped about the ring in jubilation after upsetting the reigning world champion to win Ireland's first gold medal ever in boxing.

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FELIX SAVON

clapped and swayed in the stands.

Rogelio Marcelo boxed his way to a 24-10 win over Bul-

CIS cagers' golden good-bye

BARCELONA, Aug 8: The CIS women's basketball team, playing their last game together as a unified group, defeated China 76-66 on Friday to win the Olympic gold medal, reports Reuter.

The United States, winners of the previous two Olympic crowns, beat Cuba 88-74 to claim the bronze medal. Star forward Natalia Zassoulskaia came back from a hand injury early in the second

half to help the CIS hold off China after they scored 11 successive points to cut a 13-point lead to two with nine minutes 44 seconds to go.

Zassoulskaia led the CIS with 19 points, including seven from the foul line as the clock ran out, and Elen Bounatians scored 15.

Li Dongmei scored 12 points to lead 1984 bronze medalists China, who struggled with their outside shooting.

"This is the happiest day of my life," said Zassoulskaia, whose deft passing and strong inside moves were also a key to the CIS triumph over the US in the semifinals.

"But it's also sad to think that we'll never play together against as a team. The gold fulfills all our dreams."

The Soviet Union has been a dominant force along with the United States in women's basketball, claiming previous gold in 1976 and 1980 and taking bronze in the 1988 Seoul Games.

Now the various republics

Badminton to bargain for sexual equality

BARCELONA, Aug 8: Badminton, the smash hit debutant of the Barcelona Olympics, will pursue its policy of sex equality by seeking the introduction of mixed doubles at the next Games in Atlanta, reports AFP.

Leaders of the sport, which topped the worldwide TV viewing figures for a while during its first Olympics, have previously succeeded in getting equal numbers for women at the Games after the original quota was loaded in favour of men.

Getting mixed doubles into the Olympics would be another step in the direction of equality for women, according to the president of the International Badminton Federation, Arthur Jones.

"Badminton is a game where many people get their introduction through mixed doubles and where men and women can play on equal terms," said Jones.

"In tennis physical power is a factor, but it's not so important in badminton. Women can often get a shuttle back just as well as men."

Jones believes sex equality is in tune with the recent thinking of the International Olympic Committee. "There has been an advance in the criteria it sets down," he said. "It was talking about sports that were equally attractive to men and women. Well ours is."

"We have campaigned for some time for the equality between the sexes, and push-

ing for mixed doubles, which we will continue to do, is just one example of this."

"Another example is that at the Olympic presentation ceremony we deliberately had two men and two women to present the flowers.

The best woman doubles player in the world, Chung Myung-Hee of South Korea, has not taken part in badminton's Olympic debut because she is primarily a mixed player at the moment."

Despite this, Jones believes that badminton's debut as an official Olympic sport was so successful (achieving an estimated one billion TV viewers worldwide after five days) that it can negotiate from a position of strength.

"We believe we are one of the biggest participant sports in the world, and that we were a success at the Games."

"We ought to let what has happened sink in and then we will certainly lobby for mixed doubles. We want men and women playing on equal terms - that's essential."

CIS win team sabre

BARCELONA, Aug 8: The Unified Team upset world champion Hungary 9-5 Friday in the men's team sabre, the last of the Olympic fencing events, reports AP.

France took the bronze medal.

The Unified Team's members were Grigorij Kirienko, Alexandre Chirchov, Georgui Pogossou, Vadim Gouttasait and Stanislav Pozdnjakov.



Michael Carruth (R) of Ireland throws a punch at Juan Hernandez of Cuba in the welterweight final bout in Barcelona yesterday. Carruth won the gold. -AFP photo

BARCELONA BRIEFS

Rain may ruin rumba rhythm

BARCELONA, Aug 8 (Reuter): A spectacular fireworks finale to the biggest Olympic Games could fizzle out in the rain if the weather forecasters are right.

After two weeks of scorching sunshine, they predict storms will hit Barcelona on Sunday.

"If the public can stand it, so can we," laughed one of the organisers of the show. "No storm is going to put out our fire."

The ceremony, which starts at 10 pm (2000 GMT) and will be beamed worldwide, ends with a lavish fireworks festival after the Olympic flame is snuffed out.

The organisers say firecrackers and sparks will shoot into the night sky to depict the big bang which created the earth and the galaxy from chaos.

Spanish tenor Placido Domingo will sing the Olympic hymn as the Olympic flag is lowered and Josep Carreras will join British singer Sarah Brightman in a duet.

Cobi the dog, the cheeky Olympic mascot with a lopsided grin will wave goodbye from a glittering boat and Atlanta, hosts of the 1996 Games, will introduce their mascot.

Then the athletes will pour into the stadium and party to hip-swinging rumba rhythms.

Bosnians to miss closing

ATHLETES from war-torn Bosnia will miss the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games because they are heading home with another team.

Assistant team chief Josko Bodulic said on Friday the team, which includes 10 athletes, had to be at Barcelona Airport for a midnight flight with the Croatians on Sunday and could not make the closing ceremony that evening.

Some Bosnian officials were staying behind and Bodulic hoped one could be allowed to carry the former Yugoslav republic's flag into the Olympic Stadium in the parade of nations.

Bosnia-Herzegovina was given last-minute recognition by the International Olympic Committee to allow it to compete in Barcelona. The deal was made after Yugoslavia, blamed for the fighting in Bosnia, was banned from appearing as a team by a United Nations Sanctions Committee.

The flight to Croatia will go to Split and Zagreb. Bodulic said the team's two swimmers would then travel onto the United States while the others would fly to besieged Sarajevo on a UN relief plane.

Chinese spiker banned

CHINESE volleyball player Wu Dan, expelled from the Olympics after testing positive for drugs, has been banned for three months by the sports ruling body.

The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), in a statement issued Friday, also censured the Chinese Volleyball Association for failing to look after the health and well being of their players.

Wu Dan told the International Olympic Committee earlier this week that she had taken a homemade tonic she had brought from China, unaware it contained drugs on the banned list.

The Medical Committee criticised the team's doctor for being unaware that she had taken the tonic.

Cheaters are cheated

ATHLETES looking for ways of beating drug tests switched to clenbuterol after being fooled into believing it was undetectable.

They read in a drug user's guide it could not be traced. They were wrong, Prince Alexandre de Merode, president of the International Medical Commission, said here Friday.

The "Underground steroid handbook" - a drug cheat's charter doing the rounds of the international athletics circuit - devotes 14 pages to clenbuterol.

Copies of the book have been seen in the Olympic Athletes Village.

Two British weightlifters, two German runners, including world double sprint champion Katrin Krabbe, and an American hammer thrower have all been found to have been using clenbuterol in the last two weeks.