

Balado — style is the man

BARCELONA, Aug 9: Roberto Balado of Cuba, who won the super heavyweight (over-91 kg) boxing gold medal, was awarded the Val Barker Cup by the International Amateur Boxing Association as the most stylish fighter of the Games, reports Reuter.

The only other Cuban to win the cup was heavyweight Teofilo Stevenson at the 1972 Olympics.

Cuban punchers reap it rich

BARCELONA, Aug 9: Torsten May of Germany, allowed to fight despite a bad cut over his right eye suffered in the quarterfinals, won the light heavyweight Olympic boxing gold medal Sunday, reports AP.

May outpointed Rostislav Zaoulitchnvi of the Unified Team 8-3 although Zaoulitchnvi landed 10 or 12 short solid punches to the German's head. The Unified Team was shut out of the boxing gold.

The bronze medalists were Zoltan Beres of Hungary and Wojciech Bartnik of Poland.

Hector Vinent of Cuba had too much hand and foot speed for Canadian Mark Leduc and won the Welterweight title.

Vinent's winning margin appeared greater than the 11-1 decision.

Bronze medalists were Jvri Kjal of Finland and Leonard Doroftei of Romania.

Roberto Balado capped a seven gold medal performance by Cuban boxers by easily winning the super heavyweight.

Balado outpointed Richard Igbineghu of Nigeria 13-2.

Brian Nielsen of Denmark and Svilen Roussinov of Bulgaria won the bronze medals.

Juan Lemus, the world light-middleweight champion from Cuba, was unimpressive but still won an Olympic gold medal by beating Orhan Delibas of the Netherlands.

Lemus, looking for a knock-out from the start, missed many punches in scoring a 6-1 decision.

The bronze medalists were Gyorov Mizsei of Hungary and Robin Reid of Great Britain.

Su Chot-Chol of North Korea won the flyweight Olympic boxing gold medal with a 12-2 decision over Cuban Raul Gonzalez.

Su jabbed, moved and counter-punched his way to his nation's second Olympic boxing title. The other came in 1976 at Montreal.

The bronze medalists were Tim Austin of the United States and Istvan Kovacs of Hungary.

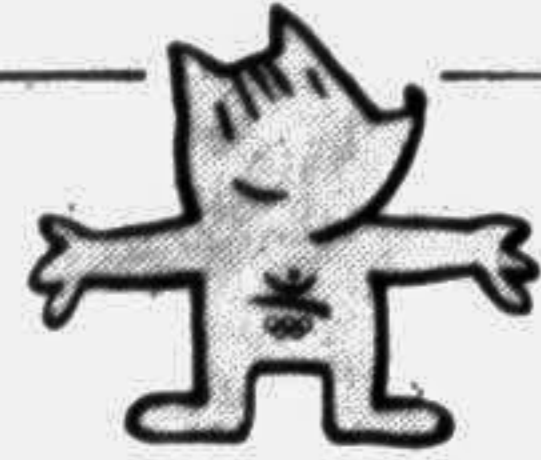
Andreas Tews of Germany outpointed Faustino Reves 16-7 in the featherweight final and dented Spain their first-ever boxing gold medal.

Tews, a silver medalist at 51 kilograms (112 pounds) in the 1988 Olympics, peppered the Spaniard with left jabs and hooks and left-right combinations in dominating the match.

The bronze medals went to Hocine Soltani of Algeria and Ramazi Paliant of the Unified Team.

Volleyball ref for Bahrain

International volleyball referee and a joint secretary of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation A S M Mofazzal Hossain leaves Dhaka for Bahrain today to attend the referees' refresher course to be held from tomorrow, August 11 to August 14, says a press release.



OLYMPIC SPECIAL



Germans break a jinx

BARCELONA, Aug 9: Michael Hilgers won Germany's Olympic men's hockey crown they so badly wanted with two brilliant goals on Saturday to edge Australia 2-1 in a tense final, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old from Moenchengadbach succeeded where he failed four years ago, putting the Germans on the road to their first gold medal triumph in 20 years almost as soon as the match began.

"The Australians made us play right up to the end, but there were moments when we played exceptionally well," said German coach Paul Lissek.

And he admitted that one of the secrets of Germany's success was copying Australian methods.

"We have had a peep over the fence at them. We have included quite a lot of elements of Australian play in our team, for instance in trying to control the game."

Hilgers, who had to be persuaded back from retirement to compete in Barcelona, scored with a fierce second minute strike that stunned the boisterous Australian fans at Terrassa.

It was to be the only goal of the first half as the desperate Australian attempts to pull level were foiled by a ruthless German defensive machine.

Hilger then came back to nail in a 59th minute goal that made the match safe just when the Aussies looked like getting on top.

He grabbed a pass from the right from substitute Stefan

Saliger, took aim and shot surely and safely to make it 2-0.

Substitute Greg Corbitt pulled on back for the Australians from a 66th minute penalty corner, scooping the ball high into the net to the left of keeper Michael Knauth.

But the Germans came through safely with no further alarm, and were enveloped in a giant national banner by jubilant fans who invaded the pitch.

Four years ago, Hilgers scored Germany's only goal in the Seoul Games final, but then saw Britain going on to win 3-1.

Saturday night's victory was third-time-lucky for the Germans, who ended up with silvers in both Los Angeles and Seoul after their last gold medal triumph at home in Munich in 1972.

And it kept the Australian quest for their first hockey gold on hold after silver medals in Mexico in 1968 and Montreal in 1976.

In recent years the Germans have won two successive Champions Trophies and the European Cup but found the World Cup and Olympic gold elusive, and made no secret of their obsessive desire to win here.

Former World Cup winners Australia, whose coach Frank Murray had predicted a "hard graft" final, never gave up the fight.

The hard-working Stephen Davies launched a counter attack immediately after the first German goal and Dave Wasbrough once broke through

into the "D".

But the German defence, spearheaded by the Ever-Dependable Volker Fried and Carsten Fischer, fought the Aussies off.

The first half generally was confined to the midfield as the Germans dictated play, leaving little room for aggressive attacks.

In the 23rd minute, Hilgers raced into the Australian circle but a brave dive by Michel York prevented the Germans from extending their lead.

The two players collided and piled on each other and York required treatment before the match resumed.

Shortly before the interval, Davies raced down the left flank and fired in a pass but Lee Bodimead failed to take advantage.

Brilliant leftwinger Andreas Becker misfired and hit the outside of the post seven minutes into the second half.

The Australians, their desperation mounting with each passing minute, forced two penalty corners but converted neither, and Paul Lewis penetrated the German circle in the 53rd minute but misfired.

The German triumph finally killed off an historical jinx. They are the first team to have won the Champions Trophy and then go on to take the subsequent Olympic title.

Murray said his first reaction was disappointment.

"But when we get back to Australia we will probably think we got a few things right and will be pleased with the silver medal," he said.

Bronze sop for South Asia

BARCELONA, Aug 9: Substitute Mohammad Shahbaz and Khalid Bashir netted Pakistan the Olympic men's hockey bronze on Saturday as they hit two goals apiece in 14 action-packed minutes to beat Holland, reports AFP.

The Asian giants were 0-2 down at half-time in Terrassa

the gold medal and it is disappointing that we have to go with a bronze because the boys played so well throughout," the 25-year-old forward said. "But we are happy. We knew that we could beat Holland."

It looked until the interval that the Dutch were coasting to an easy victory as the Pakistanis played like they had no heart to win.

Known in Pakistan as Shahbaz Junior, the speedy forward raced into the Dutch circle, weaved his way past the advancing goalkeeper Frank Leistra and slammed the ball home.

Five minutes later, penalty corner specialist Bashir scored with a blistering hit to equalise and with the adrenalin pumping, the Pakistani forwards



Holland's Cees Jan Diepeveen (C) is followed by Pakistan's Mujahid Rana (R) in Saturday's third and fourth-place decider in Terrassa, Spain. Pakistan won 4-3 for the bronze medal.

against the world champions but still landed South Asia's only Olympic medal with a 4-3 victory.

Their last two goals came in the last three minutes of the match.

The Pakistan triumph deprived Holland of a second successive Olympic bronze, but it was poor consolation for the Pakistanis, who had come here with high hopes of taking home the gold on skipper Shahbaz Ahmed's last appearance on the international stage.

They lost to Germany 1-2 in the semifinal, and to Australia 2-1 in the quarterfinal.

"It is true we hoped to win

Holland forged into the lead in the 20th minute when skipper Marc Delissen deflected the ball in off a free-hit, and two minutes later, the Dutch doubled their advantage.

Stephan Veen smacked in the rebound after Floris Jan Bovelander's penalty corner shot flew off goalkeeper Shahid Ali Khan's pads.

Until the 55th minute, the Pakistanis showed little sense of purpose and looked as if they were still recovering from the defeat to Germany, as they meandered purposelessly on the field.

But Mohammad Shahbaz, coming in as substitute for centre-forward Asif Bnjwa, turned the tide with a brilliant goal.

Three minutes from the hooter, they went up 3-2. Shahbaz half-diving and sliding to touch the ball in off a hit by another substitute, Qamar Mohammad.

Bashir made it 4-2 with another trademark penalty corner effort a minute later, but the Dutch hotly disputed it.

Bovelander hurled his stick in disgust, the Dutch arguing with the umpire in the apparent belief that the hit was too high.

Left-winger Gtj Weterings pulled one back in the 69th minute with a brilliant shot from an oblique angle, but it was too late in the day for the Dutch to bounce back.

Teutonic thoroughness tells

TERRASSA, Spain, Aug 9: Germany's victory in the men's Olympic hockey tournament saw the title remain in Europe for the

first time, fending off a strong Australian challenge and Asian efforts to regain control, reports Reuter.

The Olympic title, won eight times by India and three times by Pakistan, had never before been won by European nations at successive Games.

Germany swept through seven matches without loss, dominating with a disciplined, aggressive style to succeed Seoul gold medalist Britain who finished a disappointing sixth.

Boosted by Carsten Fischer, a burly penalty corner striker who blasted in eight goals at the Olympics, the German men were rarely tested.

"They were very well prepared, very well coached, very disciplined, very precise," said Australian coach Frank Murray after losing the final 2-1 to Germany. "In the end we weren't good enough."

German centre forward Michael Hilgers, who had to be talked into coming out of retirement for the Games, scored both goals.

After a disastrous Seoul Games for the Asian heavyweights — 1988 was the first time that neither Pakistan nor India had reached the semifinals — Pakistan recovered in the Barcelona Games to win the bronze.

The Pakistan's artistic stickwork and emphasis on individual flair overcame World Cup holders the Netherlands 4-3 in a match between losing semifinalists.

But India slumped to seventh — matching their worst performance, in the 1976 Montreal Games, and crushing

speculation that a revival of Indian hockey was under way.

"We lack the temperament for big matches," said Indian coach Balkishen Singh.

Part of the reason for Pakistan's success was greater emphasis on a strong penalty corner drill to match the best Europeans — something India lacks.

Pakistan penalty corner striker Khalid Bashir scored eight goals on the artificial pitches at Terrassa.

Although Australia won the silver, the loss in the final was the country's third — strengthening the Australians' reputation as eternal runners-up.

Australia have never won the gold and finished fourth in the last two Games when they were favourites to win.

"There's always a hope that this will be the time we win. But that puts pressure on the players," said Murray.

While Germany lived up to their role as favourites for the men's title, the women's contest was a fairytale for hosts Spain, who won on their Olympic debut.

The Spanish women's team, playing before cheering local crowds of up to 10,000 people, upset Australia and South Korea, the gold medalists and runners-up in Seoul, on their way to the Olympic title.

Spain, never higher than fifth in world rankings before, beat Germany 2-1 after extra time in the final.

Germany's silver and unstopable in all eight of its games in Barcelona, even when trailing 25-23 more than halfway through the first half against Croatia.

There were about three times (in the tournament) I felt threatened, and one of them was tonight in the first half," US coach Chuck Daly said.

Charles Barkley hit a 3-pointer, turned toward the opposing bench and pumped both fists as if to tell the Croats they would never see the lead again. They didn't.

The United States went on to a 56-42 halftime lead, still their smallest of the Olympics, then started the second half with an 11-2 run. The gold medal, only the United States' third in basketball since 1972, was never in doubt again.

The Americans shattered the previous Olympic scoring record and became the first team to score at least 100 points in every game. They av-

German rides to jumping gold

BARCELONA, Aug 9: Germany's Ludger Beerbaum rode Classic Touch on two faultless rides to win the gold medal in individual jumping Sunday with a perfect score of 0.0, reports AP.

Piet Ravmakers of the Netherlands, riding Ratina Z, had two clear rounds, but did not finish the second in the allowed time and received a .25 penalty, still good enough for silver.

Norman Dello Joto of the United States got the bronze abroad his 11-year-old gelding Irish, Dello Joto was faultless over the first course in the morning, and sent only one bar tumbling in the afternoon competition, for a score of 4.75 on the day.

The morning round was run in a steady rain that made the course a sea of brown mud.

"The rain tends to disrupt your concentration," Beerbaum said. "The water on the ground tends to make the horses jump when they shouldn't."

For riders wearing glasses, the problems were compounded by fogging lenses and slipping spectacles.

"It was good the horse did not wear glasses," said Hubert Bouudy of France, who did. "It was a problem."

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Brazilian spikers unbeaten champs

BARCELONA, Aug 9: Brazil scored 14 straight points in the final set and became Olympic champions

final began as a close match.

Neither team was able to build a significant lead until Brazil pulled away for a 14-11 advantage and closed the set after the Dutch fought off one game point.

The Brazilian fans blew trumpets, beat drums and swayed to the samba rhythm in an atmosphere resembling a soccer match. Except that here the fans mixed amicably, with the Dutch quite willing to try the samba.

But Brazil, the only unbeaten team in the tournament, took the next 14 points in an amazing run to clinch the gold. Negroes paced the Brazilians with 28 kills.

Cheering Brazilian fans ran onto the court to lift Brazilian players to their shoulders when the match ended.

"The spirit of unity carried our team, and the feeling of responsibility of representing our people and our flag," Guimaraes said.

Avital Selinger, captain of the Dutch team and son of the coach, said the Brazilian volleyball team in many ways reminded him of the Dutch soccer team.

in men's volleyball for the first time by beating the Netherlands 15-12, 15-8, 15-5 in the gold medal match Sunday, the last day of the Games, reports AP.

The United States, champions in 1984 and 1988, took the bronze after beating Cuba 12-15, 15-13, 15-7, 15-11 hours earlier.

"We played eight successive matches at a very high level. We won them all and we lost only three sets in the entire tournament," Brazil's coach Jose Guimaraes said.

The most difficult for our rivals was to defend from our attack. We attacked from all over," he said.

The Netherlands, upset winners over world champions Italy and Cuba earlier in the tournament, were playing in their first Olympic final. Brazil took the silver medal in 1984.

With the Palau Sant Jordi awash in the yellow and green colours of Brazil and the orange of the Netherlands, the

Dream Team ends US nightmare

BARCELONA, Aug 9: America's "Dream Team" of top professionals put an end to the country's basket-

craged 117.3 points easily eclipsing the 1960 US team's standard of 101.9. They won by an average of 43.8 points — the 32-points margin in the final being the closest.

When it was over, the players on the bench hugged Daly, and Barkley — smiling widely — went on the court and gave his warmup jacket to Croat Dino Radja.

On the medals stand, Magic Johnson, Jordan and Barkley carried American flags draped over their right shoulders, hid the Reebok logos on the warmup suits some players had protested wearing because of conflicting commercial endorsements.

The seeds of the United States recruiting its top professionals to play on the Olympics goes back to 1972, when a US team of college amateurs suffered the first-ever American loss in 63 Olympic games — to the Soviets.

"Before the game we watched the tape of the 1972 Olympics," Barkley said.

"This is the greatest athletic event in my life," Barkley

said. "This is the best," agreed Magic Johnson. "You can combine them all together and it still wouldn't rank with this."

Barkley, the team's leading scorer through the Olympics, finished with 17 against Croatia. Patrick Ewing had 15.

Drzen Petrovic led Croatia with 24 points, followed by Radja with 23 and Toni Kukoc with 16 points and nine assists.

Croatia has four players who were on Yugoslavia's team that won the 1990 world title, the last major international basketball tournament without American NBA players.

Croatia, which lost by 33 points to the Americans in the preliminary round, practically conceded the victory to the United States before the game. They said their semifinal silver medal — clinching victory over the Unified Team the best they could hope for.

Sarunas Marciulionis had 29 points and Arvidas Sabonis added 28 and Lithuania beat the Unified Team 82-78 for the bronze medal.

ball nightmare by winning an Olympic gold medal with their workmanlike 117-85 victory's basketball nightmare by winning on Olympic gold medal with their workmanlike 117-85 victory over Croatia, reports AP.

"We were able to do what everyone expected us to do," said Michael Jordan, who scored a team-high 22 against the Croats on Saturday. "Now we can be proud of our basketball programme again."

The so-called Dream Team was born out of the humiliation of a series of international losses, including the 1987 Pan American Games to Brazil, 1988 Olympic semifinals to the Soviet Union and the 1990 World Championships to Yugoslavia.

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American Gwen Torrence crosses the finish line during the anchor leg of the women's 4x100m relay final on Saturday. France's Marie Jose-Perec is also seen in the picture. The Americans won the gold in 42.11 secs while France finished fourth.



Svetlana Krivneva of the CIS shouts as she throws the shot putt to a distance of 21.06m to clinch the women's gold medal in Barcelona Friday.

BARCELONA BRIEFS

Barcelona declares profit

BARCELONA, Aug 9 (Reuter): Olympic organisers declared the Barcelona Games a financial success with an expected profit of five or six million dollars.

"The Games are paying for the Games," Pedro Palacios, spokesman for Organising Committee COOB, said on Sunday, the final day of the Olympics.

"We had decided that the Olympics were not going to mean expenditure and taxes for our citizens. I think we can say that the Games have achieved that objective."

The Barcelona Games, the biggest in Olympic history, had a budget of 160 billion pesetas (1.6 billion), Palacios said.

Income included 600 million dollars from television rights and money from marketing and ticket sales.

"Final accounts would be drawn up within six months. By then it would be decided how to spend the profit," Palacios said.

The Games budget was separate from some 9 billion spent on a facelift of Barcelona, including the building of new ring roads, a new airport and opening the capital of the Catalonia region to its Mediterranean shoreline for the first time.

Money for the infrastructural work came from local, regional and national government as well as the private sector.

"Barcelona today is on the world map," Palacios said.

Thunderstorm halts retreat

FIERCE thunder storms struck Barcelona Sunday and caused chaos at the airport which was gearing up for a mass exodus of Games visitors.

"Flights were stopped for