

Zurich GP promises world marks

ZURICH, Aug 18: British high jumper Colin Jackson and Kenya's 3,000 metres steeplechase world champion Moses Kiptanui attempt world records at Wednesday's Zurich Grand Prix, the richest and most prestigious meeting on the international athletics circuit, reports Reuter.

Jackson's form disintegrated over the four rounds at the Barcelona Olympics and he had a nightmare final, hitting four barriers before eventually finishing seventh out of eight.

Since Barcelona, Jackson has improved his own European record to 13.04 seconds and twice beaten Olympic champion and training partner Mark McKoy of Canada.

Although conceding that nothing will atone for the Barcelona disaster apart from the Olympic gold in Atlanta in four years' time, Jackson still has two ambitions left for 1992.

Firstly, he wants to break the world record of 12.92 set here three years ago by twice Olympic champion Roger Kingdom.

Kingdom and three-times world champion Greg Foster missed out of the United States team for Barcelona but both will be here on Wednesday night along with fellow Americans Tony Dees, the Olympic silver medalist, and former world record holder Renaldo Nehemiah.

McKoy is among the entries but he is currently in Germany

with his pregnant wife and may not be able to compete. Kiptanui, who failed to make the Kenyan Olympic team, has a point to prove in the steeplechase, traditionally the Kenyans' strongest event. He broke Said Aouita's world 3,000 metres flat record

assembling a field which includes Koech, Olympic champion Matthew Birir and 1988 Olympic champion Julius Kariki.

One anticipated clash which will not now take place as a race between Olympic 100 metres champion Linford

have been Olympic champion. Because of illness Lewis did not qualify for the US Olympic team in either the 100 or 200 metres but his performance in anchoring the 4x100 relay quartet to a world record showed he could well have won his third consecutive Olympic 100 title in Barcelona. Lewis said he was not disappointed at missing a chance to race Christie.

"No, not really," he said. "It's up to Linford to decide against whom he wants to run. That's his own business."

"But I can tell you I feel in top form and I'm pretty sure that I will get a good time here in Zurich."

Bruegger has attracted a host of other Olympic champions to the meeting with several events virtual replays of the Olympic finals.

The men's 400 metres hurdles has all three Barcelona medalists in world record holder Kevin Young, Winthrop Graham and Kriss Akabusi plus world champion Samuel Matete.

In the women's 400 hurdles, American Sandra Farmer-Patrick has a chance to avenge her Barcelona defeat to Britain's Sally Gunnell while her teammate Jackie Joyner-Kersey will also be out for revenge against German Heike Drechsler in the long jump.

Olympic 100 metres champion Gail Devers, who was denied a second gold medal when she hit the final flight in the 100 metres hurdles, will take part in both events.



COLIN JACKSON

in Cologne on Sunday and has now set his sights on compatriot Peter Koech's world steeplechase mark of eight minutes 05.35 seconds.

"I want to run a steeplechase record in Zurich," Kiptanui said after his world record run in Cologne. "Running on the flat is not as tough. In three days I feel I have it in me to beat Koech's world record."

Promoter Res Bruegger has given Kiptanui every opportunity to break the record.

Christie and the world champion and world record holder Carl Lewis.

"Christie had been one of the firm entries before Barcelona," Bruegger said this week. "In fact months ago he had been one of the first to be invited. But after Barcelona I heard that he did not want to run the 100."

Britain's Christie has not been able to train since Barcelona and he clearly is not anxious to give Lewis any opportunity to show he should

Kiptanui set to keep it up

COLOGNE, Germany, Aug 18: While many other athletes are looking jaded after the Barcelona Olympics, Kenyan Moses Kiptanui is just getting into his stride after a season dominated by injury, reports Reuter.

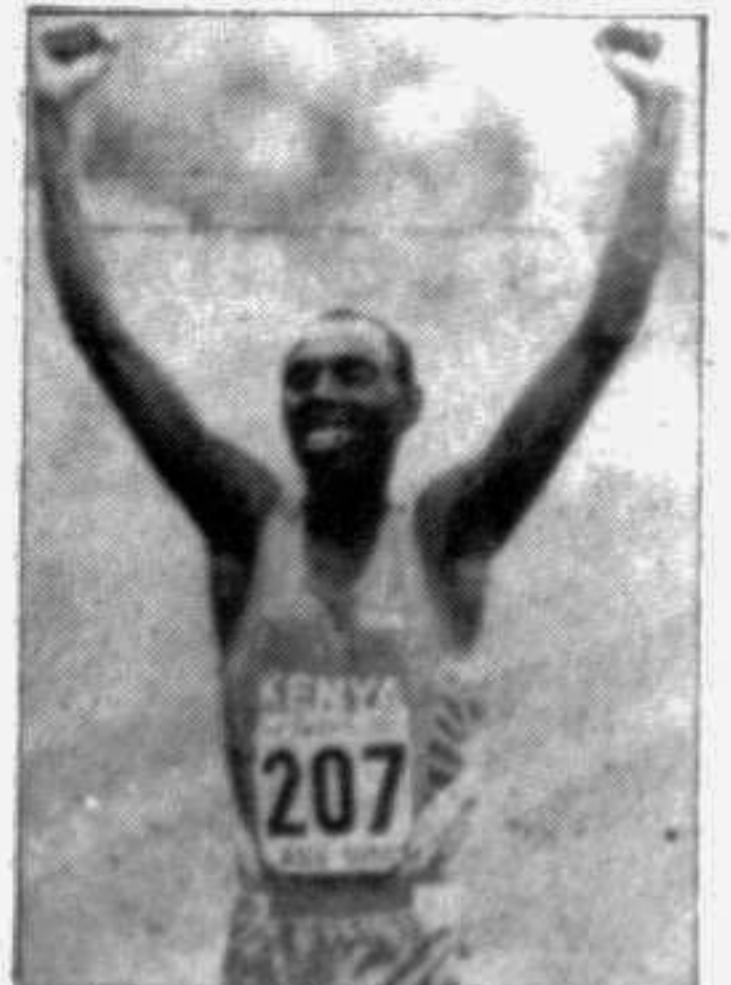
The world 3,000 metres steeplechase champion, who missed the Games because of knee problem, hopes to follow up Sunday's 3,000 metres record at the Cologne Grand Prix with another world best in the steeplechase in Zurich on Wednesday.

Judging by his determined run in Cologne's calm and cool

conditions, perfect for distance running, another record could be on the cards at the prestigious Weltklasse meeting which often brings out the best in athletes.

The 20-year-old Kiptanui, who at 19 was the youngest champion at last year's World Championships, failed in a bid to take the record at last year's Zurich meeting when he hit the second barrier on the final lap and almost fell.

But the Kenyan stormed through the last 800 metres on his own in Cologne to finish



MOSES KIPTANUI

in seven minutes 28.96 seconds, shaving nearly half a second off the previous best set by Moroccan Said Aouita on the same track three years ago.

Although he needed to dig deep into his resources in the final straight, Kiptanui looked so strong in the latter part of the race that it was obvious that he is reaching his season peak later than many of the other athletes on view.

The lucrative post-Olympic Grand Prix circuit provides athletes with an opportunity to

earn money for their performance in Barcelona. But the form book is often turned upside down and motivation is clearly an important factor.

The gold medalists in Barcelona seemed to have little to prove in Cologne whereas those who missed out on the medals looked determined to make up for their Olympic disappointments.

Olympic sprint champions, Britain's Linford Christie and American Gwen Torrence, were both beaten in the men's 100 and women's 200 metres respectively. But Christie's compatriot Colin Jackson, who had a disastrous Olympic 110 metres hurdles final, took two-hundredths of a second off his own European record when he clocked 13.04, beating Canadian Olympic champion Mark McKoy in the process.

The Welshman, whose medal hopes evaporated when he stumbled after a hurdle early on in the final, and set the previous best at a meeting in London just before the Games.

Christie, unable to train since the Olympics, failed to produce the brilliant start which won him gold and trailed in second behind Nigerian Olapade Adeniken who clocked 10.13 seconds.

Torrence never looked in contention to win the 200. Irina Privalova of the CIS, who was fourth in Barcelona, was stronger in the last 100 and came home in 22.13 seconds with Torrence trailing in second in 22.31.

But their performances were eclipsed by Kiptanui's superb effort in the last race. If Zurich provides the correct weather conditions, Kenyan Peter Koech's three-year-old steeplechase record of 8:05.35 could be in danger.

Kenyan runners eye 10000m world mark

BRUSSELS, Aug 18: Kenyans Richard Chelimo and John Ngugi will join forces in a bid to break the 10,000 metres world record at the Brussels Grand Prix athletics meeting on August 28, reports Reuter.

Organiser Wilfried Meert told a news conference on Monday it would be the first time that Olympic silver medalist Chelimo and five-times world cross country champion Ngugi had run a 10,000 metres race together outside Kenya.

They will be paced by a third Kenyan William Koech, who took seventh place in Barcelona.

They've agreed to share the premium if there's a nice surprise (a world record), Meert said.

Ngugi ran the third fastest time ever over 10,000 metres at Brussels last year, running alone most of the race to finish just three seconds outside Mexican Arturo Barrios's record of 27 minutes 08.23 seconds.

Meert said Brussels, which will feature 15 Olympic champions, 21 silver medalists and 18 bronze medalists, would offer one million Belgian francs (33,000) dollar to anyone who set a world mark. In addition, a world record holder could take home a Mazda sports car.

Meert said another Kenyan Moses Kiptanui, who set a 3,000 metres world record in Cologne on Sunday, would go for the 3,000 metres steeplechase record in Brussels if he failed to break it in Zurich on Wednesday.

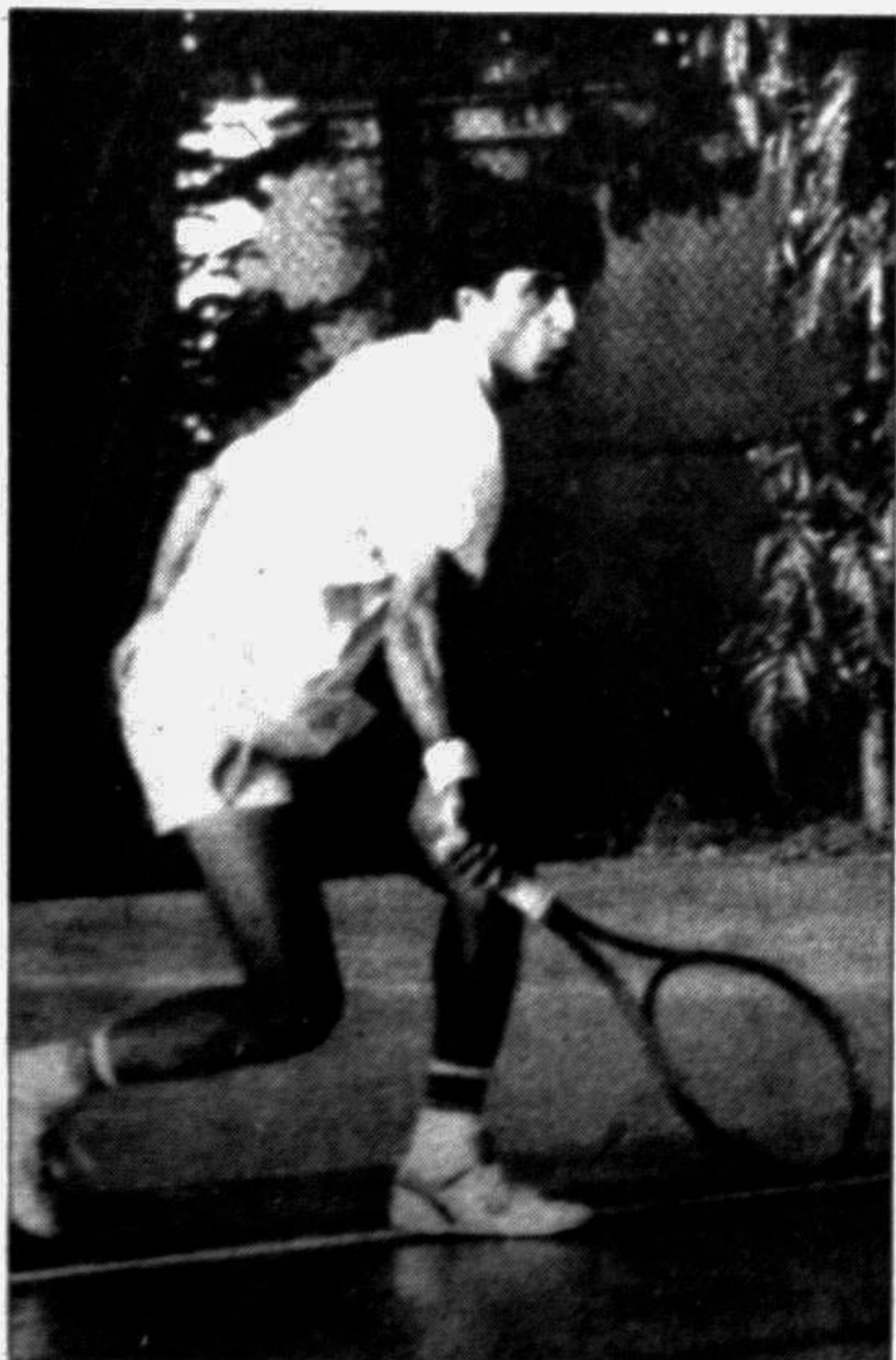
The men's long jump will only be scheduled if world record holder Mike Powell, who pulled out of the event last year because of a strained hamstring, comes out of the Berlin event injury-free.

Michael Johnson, the world 200 metres champion who failed to reach the final in Barcelona, is expected to try and salvage some pride with a top performance.

His manager told me he would have to come up with a top result if he wants to retain his market value, Meert said.

Meert refused to pay the Santa Monica track club, including eight times Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis and 200 metres gold medal winner Mike Marsh, their asking price.

"It's the second year we do so. We're not at war, but their financial demands are exaggerated," Meert said.



Syed Wahid is seen in action during the final of the Dhaka Club 81st Foundation Day tennis tournament against Mashuk at club court yesterday. He lost the match 5-7, 1-6. — Star photo

Police fears FIS attack on Boulmerka

MADRID, Spain, Aug 18: Police at the Olympic Games assigned a special security team to Algerian track star Hassiba Boulmerka out of fear that Islamic fundamentalists would attack her, a newspaper reported Tuesday, reports AP.

After receiving information that four Algerian fundamentalists were in Barcelona, police dressed as civilian Olympic volunteers kept close to Boulmerka on Aug. 8, the day she won the gold medal in the



HASSIBA BOULMERKA

1,500-metre event. Spain's leading daily, El Pais, said.

Police kept watch on the fundamentalists in Barcelona, but there were no incidents involving Boulmerka, the newspaper said.

The fundamentalists, however, did hold a banner at the Olympic stadium praising the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), and Islamic group banned by Algeria's military-backed High State Committee.

The Algerian military took power in January after it was clear that FIS was poised to take power in Algeria's first democratic parliamentary elections. FIS has called for an Islamic republic.

El Pais said Boulmerka attracted the ire of fundamentalists because she does not adhere to strict Islamic dress codes, which prohibit a woman from wearing shorts or sleeveless shirts.

A spokesman for the Algerian Embassy in Madrid refused to comment on the report.

After taking the gold in 3 minutes, 55.30 seconds, Boulmerka told reporters that she was dedicating her medal to Mohammed Boudiaf, the Algerian president assassinated by a security officer on June 29.

It is unclear why the officer shot Boudiaf.

"I think many women want to practice sport all over, not just in Algeria," Boulmerka said. "I don't see what the problem is. There are women everywhere who would like to run but are afraid."

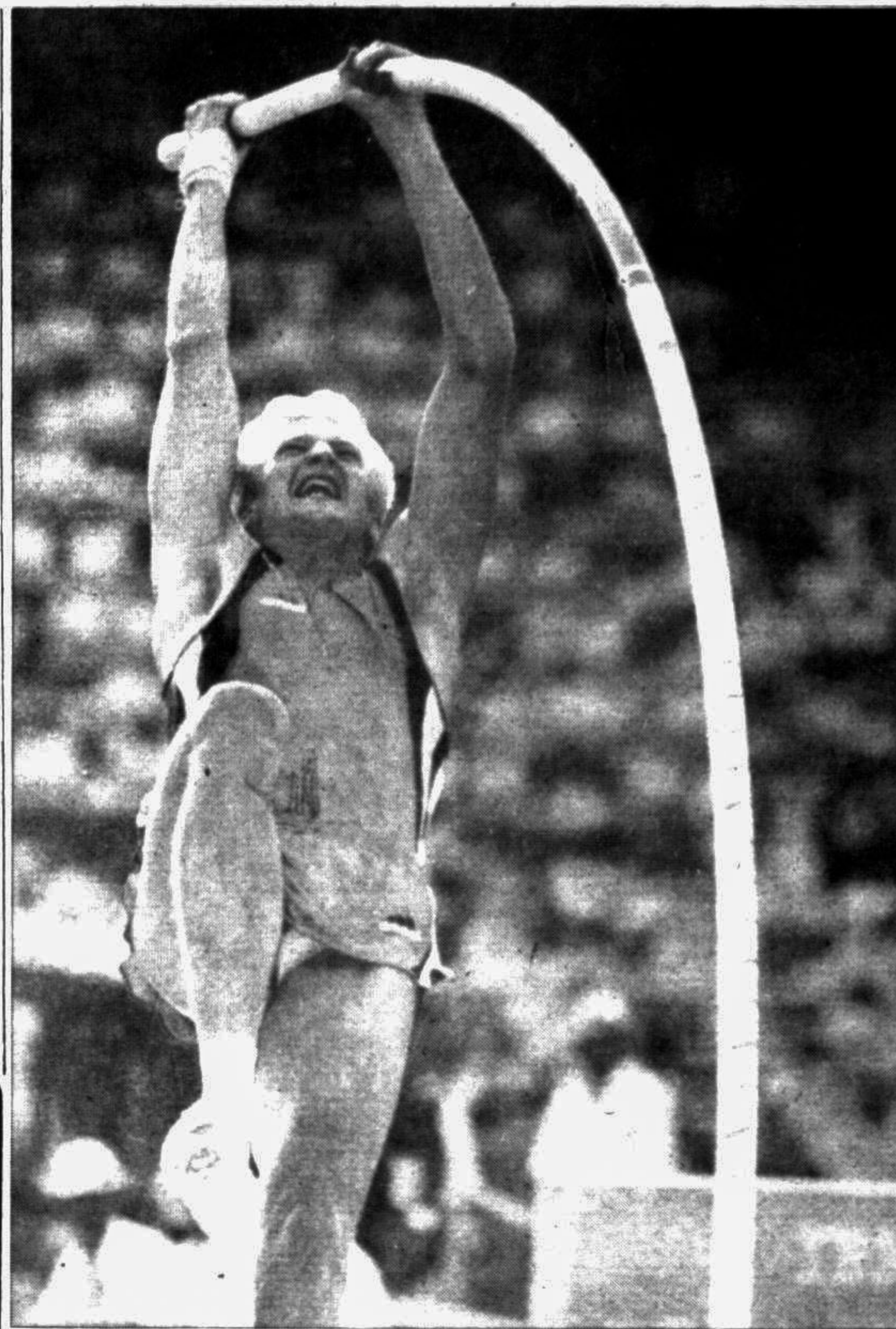
Mashuk's title Sports Reporter

Mashuk became champion in the Dhaka Club 81st Foundation Day tennis tournament beating Syed Wahid 7-5, 6-1 in the final at the club court yesterday.

Wahid, who fought neck-and-neck in the first set, seemed fatigued in the second and could not cope with his opponent's serves or returns.

The win should spur Mashuk towards a double triumph when he and his partner Dr Zahir take on Habib and Mannan in today's doubles final.

The match is scheduled for a 4-30 start this afternoon.



Maxim Tarassov, a pupil of pole vaulting superstar Sergei Bubka, won the Olympic gold medal in Barcelona earlier this month by scaling 5.80m.

Navratilova in top form

MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif., Aug 18: Martina Navratilova winning a fifth US Open title at age 35? What seemed unlikely a few days ago now seems not at all out of the question, reports AP.

With a decisive victory over No. 1-ranked Monica Seles in the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles tournament, Navratilova showed herself to be in top form two weeks before the tournament at Flushing Meadow, NY.

She last won the Open in 1987, before physical problems crept up on her. This time, Navratilova is in great shape and is playing excellent tennis.

She likes her chances. "This opens it up a little bit," Navratilova said Sunday after beating Seles 6-4, 6-2. "The people who were writing me off will have to stop and say, 'Wait a minute. May be I jumped the gun.'"

Playing against the 18-year-old Seles, a woman almost half her age, Navratilova executed

her serve-and-volley game almost to perfection. Her usual



M. NAVRATILOVA

weapons misfiring. Seles never even got a break point on her.

Navratilova lost only 11 points on her serve and made just 10 unforced errors.

"It's a great confidence booster," said Navratilova, who moved up a spot to replace Gabriela Sabatini as the No. 3 player in this week's rankings. "I wasn't sure if I could do it, but I proved myself wrong."

An added bonus was proving wrong those who say Navratilova should step aside, make way for the 25-and-un-

der crowd. She tires not to read stories that say she's too old, but she knows the skeptics are out there. Her response: "Why shouldn't I still be playing if I can do this? Even if it's just once a year, it's worth it."

For me, the positive outweigh the negatives. It's like a relationship...if the negatives outweigh the positives, it's time to get out."

There isn't much left for her to accomplish. The \$1.7 million winners purse here pushed her career earnings past the \$18 million mark, and she increased her own record by winning her 160th tournament title.

Another US Open title would be nice, and Navratilova thinks she's as ready now as she's ever been. A lot of the credit, she said, goes to Team Tennis, a league dismissed by many as a mere gimmick.

After losing a tough three-setter to Seles in the Wimbledon semifinals, Navratilova joined up with the Atlanta Thunder and helped it to the league championship.

Matinee may swing Seles' luck

MONTREAL, Aug 18: Monica Seles has had her problems since the French Open, reports AP.

That was when the world's top-ranked women's player won her last tournament title.

Since then, she lost the Wimbledon final to Steffi Graf, the No. 2-ranked player, in July and the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles to Martina Navratilova, now ranked No. 3, on Sunday.

That makes the Matinee International women's tennis tournament at Montreal's Jarry Park a perfect spot for Seles to begin another victory string.

After last minute withdrawals by Graf, Navratilova, Gabriela Sabatini and Jennifer Capriati, the tournament organisers were saved by the late entry of Seles and with most of the world's top players skipping this week's event, Seles is a heavy favourite to win.

Graf, who cited shoulder problems and Navratilova, who told tournament officials she was tired, though she went on to beat Seles in the final of the Los Angeles tournament on Sunday, are facing fines according to a Women's Tennis Association official.

Graf is to be fined \$10,000 and Navratilova \$7,500 for pulling out of the tournament for insufficient reason.

Seles, who received a first-round bye, is scheduled to play her second round match Tuesday against Marianne Werdel.

Those given the best shot at Seles are Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, seeded second, and American Mary Joe

Fernandez, seeded third.

Ninth-seeded Judith Wies-



MONICA SELES

ner rallied to beat American Paty Fendick 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 on Monday in the first round of the \$1.5 million tennis tournament.

The Austrian's ragged beginning was understandable as she was playing her first hard court match since March.

"The first set, I had problems moving," Wiesner said. "She was just very aggressive. She didn't let me get into a rhythm. But I definitely got off to a better start in the second set."

In another match of the day, Patricia Hy, Canada's top-ranked player, dropped the first set before posting a convincing 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Kathy Rinaldi.

Hy said being stretched to three sets early in the tournament can only be beneficial. "I tend to play better with each match, and winning a three-setter is always a confidence-booster," she said. "You just feel that it doesn't matter

how poorly you start, that you can finish up strong when it matters."

Hy's victory salvaged some pride for the Jarry Stadium fans, who saw three other Canadians eliminated in first-round action.

Vanessa Webb of Toronto was beaten by Noelle van Lottum of France 6-2, 6-2, while Vancouver's Sonya Jeysasselan was hammered 6-1, 6-0 by South African Elna Reinach.

Mouren Drake took a 4-2 first-set lead against No. 14 seed Naoko Swamatsu of Japan before losing 6-4, 6-3—the Toronto native's fourth consecutive first round loss in the tournament.

Canada's two other hopes—Helen Kelesi of Richmond Hill and Toronto's Rene Simson Alter—play their first round matches Tuesday.

Other first day winners were 12th-seeded Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands, and 16th-seeded Nicole Provis of Australia.

Schultz edged American Halle Cioffi 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (8-6), and Provis beat Stephanie Rottler of the Netherlands 6-0, 7-6 (7-2).

Volvo tennis washed out

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, Aug 18: The opening day of the \$1.04 million Volvo international tennis tournament on Monday was washed out by day-long rain, reports Reuter. Though a few of the eight first round matches scheduled were started, none got close to completion.

Tyson fails to win a fresh trial

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 18: A judge has denied Mike Tyson's motion for post-conviction relief, blocking his efforts to win a new trial, reports AP.

Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia Gifford said in an order issued Monday that a contingency fee agreement between the woman Tyson was convicted of raping and her attorney was not "newly discovered evidence" and would not merit a new trial.

Gifford's eight-page order also affirmed her earlier decision to deny Tyson's attorneys the right to question 19-year-old Desiree Washington of Coventry, RI.

Tyson's appeal attorney, Harvard law professor Alan M. Dershowitz, had sought a copy of the retainer and fee agreement between Washington and Rhode Island attorney Edward Gerstein.

Dershowitz had claimed the contingency fee pact was the "smoking gun" that would win Tyson a new trial. He said it showed Washington pursued criminal charges against Tyson because she wanted the financial gain of a lawsuit.

Tyson was convicted Feb. 10 of raping Washington, then 18 in his Indianapolis hotel room in July 1991. He is serving a six-year sentence at the Indiana Youth Center. Dershowitz is appealing the conviction before the Indiana Court of Appeals.

Dershowitz said the deposition would have proved that Washington lied on the witness stand when she was asked about any fee agreements her family had with a private attorney, he said.

"What Judge Gifford fails to understand in this opinion is the key is not that there was a contingency fee agreement, but that Desiree Washington was willing to cover it up and give misleading testimony," Dershowitz told the Indianapolis Star.

Gifford said Indiana law requires that such evidence must be likely to produce a different result and not simply be an addition to evidence the jury already heard.

"The fact that a written agreement with her former attorney was in existence would be but one more of a piece of cumulative evidence that would not have produced a different result," Gifford wrote.

The fee agreement came to light after the Rhode Island Supreme Court publicised its existence when Gerstein requested an opinion on whether he should reveal it.

Gifford also criticised Tyson's appeal attorneys. She noted that to bolster his claim that the Washington family was only seeking financial gain, Dershowitz cited a June 28 interview on ESPN radio with the victim's father, Don Washington.

In the interview, Don Washington makes a reference to movie rights concerning the case, and says, "That's where the money is."

But Gifford wrote that a transcript shows Washington was merely quoting Gerstein, while Dershowitz's motions attributed the remark directly to Don Washington.

Dershowitz countered that he did not rely exclusively on the ESPN interview to support his argument.

WTA's top money winners

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Aug 18: Leading money winners this year on the women's tennis circuit, according to figures issued on Monday by the Women's Tennis Association:

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia) 1,188,352 dollar
2. Steffi Graf (Germany) 1,003,026 dollar
3. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) 753,365 dollar
4. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain) 706,255 dollar
5. Natalia Zvereva (CIS) 392,969 dollar
6. Martina Navratilova (US) 367,833 dollar
7. Mary Joe Fernandez (US) 334,470 dollar
8. Conchita Martinez (Spain) 303,843 dollar
9. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia) 281,584 dollar
10. Larissa Savchenko-Neiland (Latvia) 277,727 dollar
11. Gigi Fernandez (US) 263,537 dollar
12. Lori McNeil (US) 227,416 dollar
13. Zina Garrison (US) 221,697 dollar
14. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia) 213,387 dollar
15. Jennifer Capriati (US) 206,751 dollar
16. Amy Frazier (US) 179,813 dollar
17. Nathalie Tauziat (France) 175,005 dollar
18. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria) 158,381 dollar
19. Maman Bollegraf (Netherlands) 148,844 dollar
20. Nicole Provis (Australia) 146,535 dollar