

Krabbe & co to challenge ban



BONN, Sept 15: Double world sprint champion Karin Krabbe, who won a controversial battle against a drug's ban earlier this year on a legal technicality, plans to challenge another proposed four-year ban, reports Reuter.

Krabbe's lawyer Peter Woessner said on Monday the former East German and teammate Grit Breuer would fight suspensions recommended after they tested positive for clenbuterol, a drug used to fatten cattle, during random

Lauridsen leads GP placings

CHELTHAM, England, Sept 15: Danish youngster Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen is the new leader of the world men's singles badminton Grand Prix after reaching the final of the Malaysian Open at the weekend, reports AFP.

The 21-year-old lost to home star Rashid Sidek, but still jumped four places and now leads China's Wu Wenkai, a semi-finalist in Kuala Lumpur, by 60 points. Sidek soared up the list to eighth.

There was no change at the top of the women's singles Grand Prix, even though Tang Jiahong did not play in Malaysia.

tests in July.

"We will be arguing that the ban be reduced on the scientific argument that clenbuterol cannot be regarded as an anabolic steroid," Woessner told Reuter. "We plan to appeal to the legal commission."

"I think the argument is very strong. I have a scientific report where two doctors dispute the classification of the drug. I have asked the DLV to ask another independent scientist to produce another report."

The German Athletics Federation (DLV) recommended on Friday that the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) imposed a four-year ban on the duo together with teammate Manuela Derr.

Under IAAF rules athletes who test positively for steroids are automatically banned for four years.

Woessner said the athletes were preparing to appeal against the ruling to the DLV's legal commission, the National Federation's Arbitration Panel.

Last June Krabbe and Breuer succeeded in avoiding a four-year ban for manipulating

gal dispute which lasted more than four months, the DLV legal commission lifted the original ban by the federation because they were too many holes in the case and the IAAF were left to make a final ruling.

Krabbe, world 400 metres silver medalist Breuer and Derr, who ran in the East German team which won gold in the 4x400 metres relay at the 1990 European Championships, now look like facing another drawn-out battle to earn the right to run.

Krabbe indicated another legal dispute was on the cards at the weekend when she said: "I want to run again and will do everything I can to do so."

The outcome of the case could not only be significant for Krabbe, who has lost lucrative sponsorship deals because of the affair, but also to other athletes who have tested positive for sport's latest fashion drug.

Edberg to anchor Sweden against US in Davis Cup

STOCKHOLM, Sept 15: Stefan Edberg, the US Open champion and world's top-ranked player, will anchor the Swedish tennis team against the United States in the Davis Cup semifinal, Sweden's coach announced Tuesday, reports AP.

Edberg's US team opponents include world No 2 Jim Courier, Pete Sampras, No 3, Andre Agassi, No 6, and John McEnroe, No 19 — all seeded at the Open.

Coach John Anders Sjogren also named Magnus Larsson, Magnus Gustafsson and Anders Jarryd for the Sept 25-27 event in Minneapolis, Minn.

The surface is clay, the world No 1's weakest.

"It will be interesting. The US is 75-80 percent favourite in my view. But we have not given up, nothing is impossible," said Edberg after he beat Sampras in the US Open final.

Edberg will play two singles matches and the doubles match with his old partner, Jarryd, one of the world's best double players.

Sjogren said he had not yet decided who will play the other singles match.

Edberg regained the top ranking from Courier by winning the Open.



Stefan Edberg of Sweden, who won the US Open title on Sunday and reclaimed the number one spot, is seen receiving the trophy at the National Tennis Centre after the final which he won against American Pete Sampras. —Star TV photo

'Fractional breathing' can do the trick



MOSCOW, Sept 15: In 50 years of coaching athletics, Yakov Yel'yanov has seen it all — so when told

about the invention of a "revolutionary" breathing technique the veteran trainer was sceptical to say the least, reports Reuter.

Six months later, Yel'yanov is a firm convert to the "fractional breathing" method of Siberian chemist Alexander Streltsov and has persuaded his runners — all members of the Russian national team — to use it.

The technique of making four separate, successive inhalations before every exhalation of air has helped several of the athletes chop seconds of their personal best times for the 800 and 1,500 metres this season.

Its inventor believes its impact could be as revolutionary as Dick Fosbury's high jump method, not only in athletics but in a range of other endurance events.

"It's like the Fosbury flop in the high jump but it works for skiing, skating, rowing, cycling, running, swimming and boxing, for example," said Streltsov, who has been invited to work on the breathing method this winter with the national speed-skating squad.

The 38-year-old scientist from Irkutsk has been lobbying Commonwealth of Independent States sports authorities for months to give his method a fair trial. Last February, he got his breakthrough.

World Jr Athletics Championships begin in Seoul

SEOUL, Sept 15: A world track and field meet among more than 1,000 athletes aged between 16 and 19 — a test for 1996 Olympic hopefuls — opened Tuesday with ceremonies in a Seoul gymnasium, reports AP.

Cuban athletes are visiting South Korea for the first time for the six-day 4th World Junior Athletics Championships. Cuba have no diplomatic relations with South Korea and boycotted the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Among the 98 nations entered, Germany have fielded the largest delegation — 77 athletes — followed by about 60 from the Commonwealth of Independent States and 55 from the United States.

The United States hope to win 10 of the 41 gold medals at stake in the meet, sponsored by the International Amateur Athletics Federation.

American sprinter Marion Jones is one of the favourites in the women's 100- and 200-metre dashes.

The clash between Australian high jumper Tim Forsyth, an Olympic bronze medalist in Barcelona last month, and European junior champion Steve Smith of Britain is one of the meet's highlights.

Javelin competition includes two men who each have broken the world junior record this year — Kostas Gatsoudis of Greece and Aki Parvanen of Finland.

Only a few hundred spectators, admitted free of charge, watched the 30-minute opening ceremony for the meet, which marks the fourth anniversary of the Olympics in Seoul.

A 120-member brass band played, and later athletes and officials waved flags and cheered during post-ceremony performances by Korean folk dancers and pop singers in the 10,000-seat gymnasium.

Five of Yel'yanov's athletes underwent laboratory tests where Streltsov measured their oxygen intake, pulse and production of lactic acid, a substance which builds up with the onset of fatigue and stops the muscles working efficiently.

With the new technique, the level of oxygen entering the runner's bloodstream rose by 10 to 12 per cent. They achieved identical speeds while maintaining a much lower pulse rate.

But what impressed Yel'yanov most of all was the drop in production of lactic acid.

"I've been working 54 years and I've seen all kinds of crazy experiments but when I spoke to Alexander he showed me the theoretical basis and I could see a grain of reason in it," the trainer said.

"I was amazed by what I saw in those figures — the level of lactic acid fell by 1.5 to two times."

So how does the method work?

The four separate inhalations, Streltsov says, extend the length of each breathing cycle and give haemoglobin — a protein compound in the blood — more time to absorb the oxygen and carry it to the muscles.

The runner makes fewer breathing cycles per minute — in other words he takes in less air but extracts more oxygen.

This way, the athlete can delay the point at which his body starts burning up its own internal oxygen reserves and producing the lactic acid which slows him down.

"It's the athlete himself who changes the supply of air. It's very simple, even primitive. An invention is always a means of

making things simpler," Streltsov said.

"I think those who want to, can master it very fast. It takes a maximum of five days to learn."

At a practice track near the Lenin Olympic Stadium in Moscow, Yel'yanov's charges have been putting the method to the test this season and are pleased with the results.

"When we were told about it I was against it, I was cautious. But I had nothing to lose so I decided to try it," said Olga Nelybova, who runs the 800 and 1,500 metres.

Since she started to use fractional breathing, the 28-year-old has trimmed her times for both distances by two seconds — to one minute 58 seconds and 4.06 respectively — and hit her best form since 1988.

Opponents she has beaten include Tatyana Dorovskikh and Romania's former Olympic champion Paula Ivan. Nelybova said the method was hard to get used to because "you feel you're swelling up with air." The temptation to revert to normal breathing is strong, especially in races.

"In competition you're at your limits and running the last part of the race on stamina. I stop thinking about the breathing. I just think about finishing the race. But I think I'll learn," she said.

Yel'yanov says he believes the method will gradually gain popularity among Russian athletes and coaches. Its impact is likely to be greatest in long-distance endurance events.

"This method makes you breathe very deeply so that the air gets where it needs to. When you get used to it, learn it and make it automatic, it gives big results."

"I'm 100 per cent sure the longer the distance the greater the effect from using this breathing," he said.

Gonzalez retains WBC crown

INGLEWOOD, Calif., Sept 15: World Boxing Council light flyweight champion Humberto Gonzalez retained his title Monday night with a second-round knockout of Napa Kiatwanchi of Thailand, reports AP.

Gonzalez, from Mexico City, floored Kiatwanchi four times in the bout scheduled for 12 rounds at the Forum.

The end came at 2:48 after a left uppercut put Kiatwanchi down for the third time in the second round. Referee Vince Delgado stopped the fight immediately.

Gonzalez scored the first knockdown with seconds remaining in the first round, landing a "combination. Kiatwanchi, from Bangkok, was still shaky when the bell rang for the start of the second round.

Moving in quickly, Gonzalez continued his attack and Kiatwanchi went down twice from combinations.

Gonzalez, who had won, lost and then won back the WBC title, is 10-1 in light flyweight title fights. He has made eight successful defences, including three since he took the crown back.

The 26-year-old Gonzalez is now 34-1, with 26 knockouts. Kiatwanchi, 25, the former WBC 105-pound champion, is now 15-3-1, with eight knockouts. Both fighters weighed the division limit of 108 pounds (49 kilograms).

Champions survive unscathed



NEW YORK, Sept 15: Stefan Edberg and Monica Seles emerged from a fortnight of early upset, marathon matches and big-name clashes to retain their US Open titles, reports Reuter.

Five-set battles were the order of the day in the men's tournament, while the usually predictable women's draw was turned upside down, leaving just one of the top four seeds in the semifinals.

Clashes that in recent years might have been reserved for the semifinals or finals seemed to be taking place daily, thanks to the shrinking rankings of some of the biggest stars.

Australian and French Open champion Jim Courier met four times Open winner John McEnroe and three times champion Ivan Lendl squared off against three times Wimbledon champion Boris Becker as early as the fourth round.

The quarters produced top-seeded Courier against Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi and Edberg against Lendl.

Finally Edberg, whose overtime loathing of the National Tennis Centre has turned to

love, reclaimed the world number one ranking with victory.

The elegant 26-year-old Swede, whose classic serve-and-volley style is a beauty to behold when he is in form, had to scratch and claw his way to the final, scrambling through three successive five-set matches, in which he was a break down in the fifth.

Like a cat with nine lives he survived all adversity, including a rain-marred, two-day quarter-final against Lendl that was decided to a fifth-set tiebreaker, and an Open record five hour 26 minute endurance test against remarkable retriever Michael Chang in the semifinals.

Edberg's resilience thwarted a bid for an American Grand Slam sweep. He beat Pete Sampras, the 1990 champion, in the final after Courier and Agassi had collectively claimed the year's first three Grand Slam events.

For the first time in a decade neither Martina Navratilova nor Steffi Graf was in the women's final in the Open. Olympic champion Jennifer Capriati crashed in the

third round and Gabriela Sabatini, the 1990 champion, left in the quarters.

Navratilova, a second-round loser, had the spotlight stolen by both her opponents.

Magdalena Maleeva, the 17-year-old youngest of the Bulgarian baselining sisters, scored the upset, but American wild card Shaun Stafford probably helped by utterly unnerving Navratilova by laughing merrily all the way through a long match won 7-5 by Navratilova in the third set.

Patricia Hy, a diminutive Cambodian-born Canadian, blossomed at the advanced age of 27, by ousting Capriati and then knocking out lanky Helena Sukova.

Hy's heroics ground to a halt when she came up against a muted Seles, quietened by a sore throat and a bad case of the sniffles.

During the early rounds Seles achieved her victories in relative silence but as her symptoms subsided, the 18-year-old Yugoslav regained her voice and her grunts rose to the volume of battle cries as she humbled Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the final for her seventh Grand Slam title and a

dollar 500,000 prize.

Jimmy Connors, the sentimental favourite at Louis Armstrong Stadium, celebrated his 40th birthday with a first-round victory over Brazilian Jaime Oncins for his 98th Open win.

Connors, competing in his 22nd Open, was floored in the next round by Lendl. Reverting to his bad boy persona of earlier days, Connors bad-mouthed Lendl's ability.

Some players had to suffer for their glory as television interests took precedence.

Seles and Sanchez, had to wait for the Chang-Edberg extravaganza to end before their championship match. Sampras, who needed two hours of treatment late Saturday night for dehydration after his semifinal win over Courier, had to return Sunday afternoon to play Edberg.

Courier said: "I think if you ask any of the players, we are going to say that this is the worst setup for us in a Grand Slam... Saturday and Sunday, semi and final. It's great for tennis in America. It is bad for two people — the players that play on Sunday."

ATP's top 20

MONACO, Sept 15: Leading men's rankings issued by the Association of Tennis Professionals on Monday:

1. Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 3,577 points
2. Jim Courier (US) 3,574
3. Pete Sampras (US) 3,542
4. Michael Chang (US) 2,447
5. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 2,103
6. Andre Agassi (US) 2,067
7. Petr Korda (Czechoslovakia) 2,066
8. Boris Becker (Germany) 1,944
9. Ivan Lendl (US) 1,867
10. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) 1,806
11. Guy Forget (France) 1,593
12. Carlos Costa (Spain) 1,590
13. Malvay Washington (US) 1,543
14. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) 1,477
15. Michael Stich (Germany) 1,466
16. Thomas Muster (Austria) 1,396
17. Alexander Volkov (CIS) 1,364
18. Aaron Krickstein (US) 1,293
19. John McEnroe (US) 1,250
20. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 1,207

WTA's top 20

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Sept 15: Leading women's rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association on Monday:

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia) 4,466
2. Steffi Graf (Germany) 4,466
3. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) 4,466
4. Martina Navratilova (US) 4,466
5. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain) 4,466
6. Mary Joe Fernandez (US) 4,466
7. Jennifer Capriati (US) 4,466
8. Conchita Martinez (Spain) 4,466
9. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland) 4,466
10. Anke Huber (Germany) 4,466
11. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia) 4,466
12. Nathalie Tauziat (France) 4,466
13. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia) 4,466
14. Zina Garrison (US) 4,466
15. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria) 4,466
16. Mary Pierce (France) 4,466
17. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa) 4,466
18. Amy Frazier (US) 4,466
19. Sabine Appelmans (Belgium) 4,466
20. Lori McNeil (US) 4,466



Brazil's Ayrton Senna steers his McLaren-Honda round a bend followed by Ricard. Patrese of Italy during the Italian Grand Prix in Monza on Sept 13. Senna won the race.

Paralympics reach a new height

BARCELONA, Sept 15: More than one million spectators watched sports events during the 11 days of the Barcelona Paralympic Games for the disabled, organisers said on Monday, final day of the event, reports Reuter.

Several hundred world or Paralympic records were set in the 15 sports included in the Games, which organisers said had been among the most successful in their 32-year history.

They attributed the improvement in performance by disabled athletes in part to advances in technology in areas such as artificial limbs and to careful preparation of the sports venues, the same as those used during the main Olympics in July and August.

The Paralympics, which began as part of the Rome Olympics in 1960, cater for the blind, sufferers from polio and related diseases, amputees and victims of cerebral palsy.

More than 3,000 athletes from 85 countries took part in the ninth Games in Barcelona.

One of the organisers' main fears was that, in a city getting back to normality after the hectic days of the main Olympics, public interest in the disabled Games would be slight even though admission to sports events was free.

"Obviously that was our concern, but it did not work out that way at all," said one organ-

ising committee member. The public response was excellent."

On several occasions, especially during the two weekends of competition, some Paralympic venues had to turn spectators away. These included the 55,000-capacity Montjuic Olympic Stadium, where athletics events were staged.

The stadium was packed for the spectacular opening ceremony on September 3 and Monday night's closing ceremony, to be attended by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, was also a sell-out.

"It is worthy of sociological study, especially when two years ago hardly anybody here knew what the Paralympics were," Games director Joan Coll said in an interview with

the newspaper El Pais.

"Barcelona has broken many barriers, giving the Games a great quality and a new focus," Coll said.

Although this was the fourth time the Paralympics have been held in the same city as the full Games, it was the first where the organising committee was the same for both and where the same installations and Athletes' Village were used.

Barcelona mayor Pasqual Maragall and Miguel Duran, head of Spain's charity for the blind which put up 40 per cent of the 100 million dollar Paralympics budget, both made pleas for the holding of a Paralympics to be an integral part of any city's bid to host the Olympics.

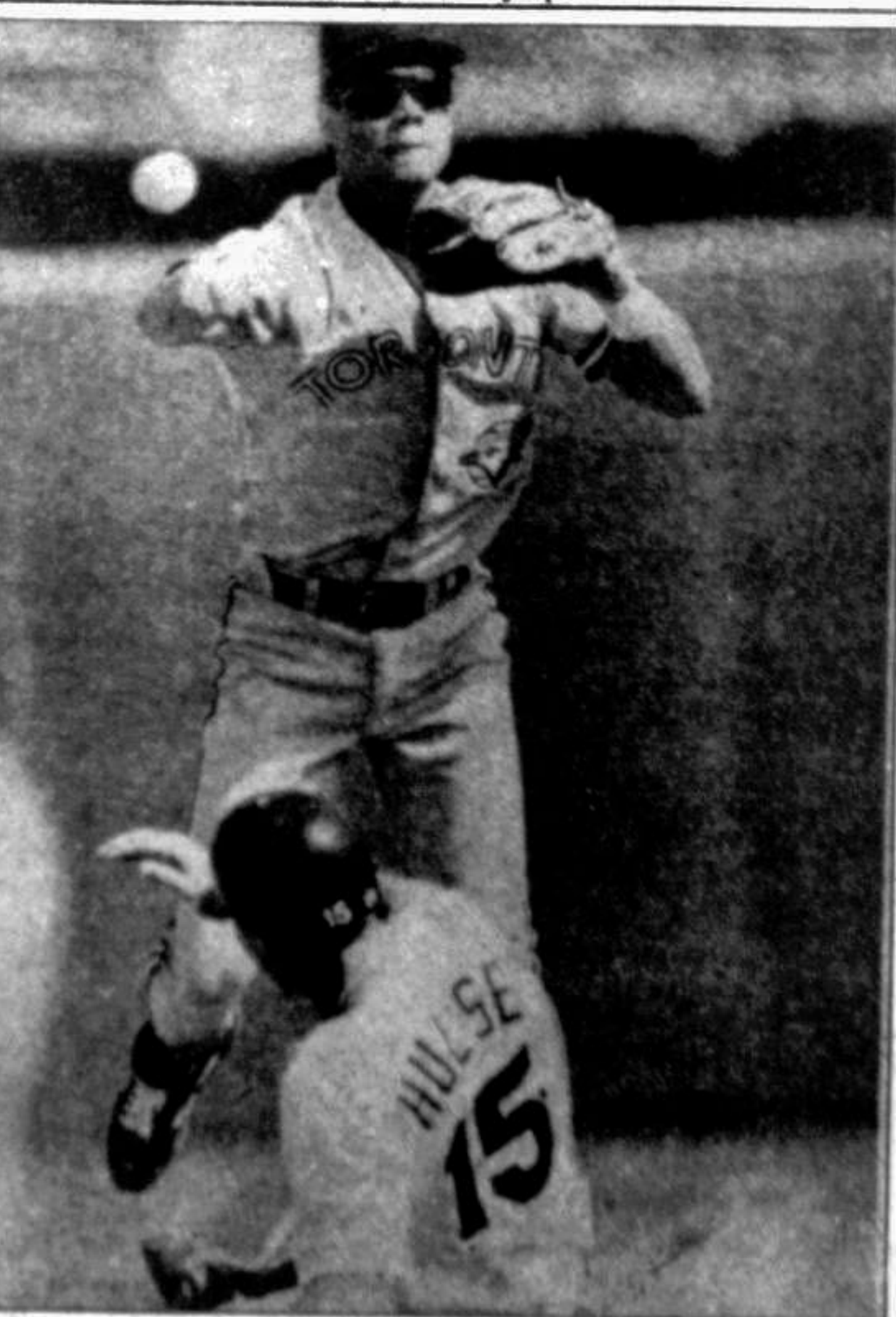
Shaheed Smriti Cup in October

JAMALPUR, Sept 15: The 12th Shaheed Smriti Gold Cup football tournament will begin at Dewangonj thana headquarters in the last week of October, reports BSS.

The tournament, organised by the Dewangonj unit of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad, is held every year in honour of the martyrs of the Liberation War.

A number of First Division football teams from all over the country including Dhaka take part in the tournament, which is the biggest soccer meet in the greater Mymensingh.

Interested teams have been requested to send their entries on or before October 5 to the secretary of Shaheed Smriti Football Tournament, Dewangonj Jamalpur.



Toronto Blue Jays second baseman Roberto Alomar throws the ball to first base as Texas Rangers centre fielder David Hulse slides in an attempt to break the double play in Arlington on Sept 13. The Blue Jays defeated the Rangers 7-2.