

Lewis, Powell avoid each other in Tokyo Super meet



TOKYO, Sept 18: The pressure is off long jump rivals Carl Lewis and Mike Powell because they don't have to compete against each other in Saturday's Toto International Super Track and Field Meet, reports AP.

"My goal is just finishing up the season with a good mark," said Powell, who broke Bob Beamon's 23-year-old world long jump record of 8.90 metres (29 feet 2 1/2 inches) with a leap of 8.95 (29-4 1/2) in the World Championships here in Tokyo last year.

In Saturday's meet, Lewis is participating only in the 100-metre dash and 400-metre relay events, while Powell is competing in the long jump.

Powell, who set the record after beating Lewis at Tokyo's National Stadium, the site of Saturday's Toto International, said his major target had been to surpass his rival.

After a neck-and-neck battle at Barcelona, Lewis won the event at 8.67 metres (28-5 1/3) and Powell came second with 8.66 (28-5).

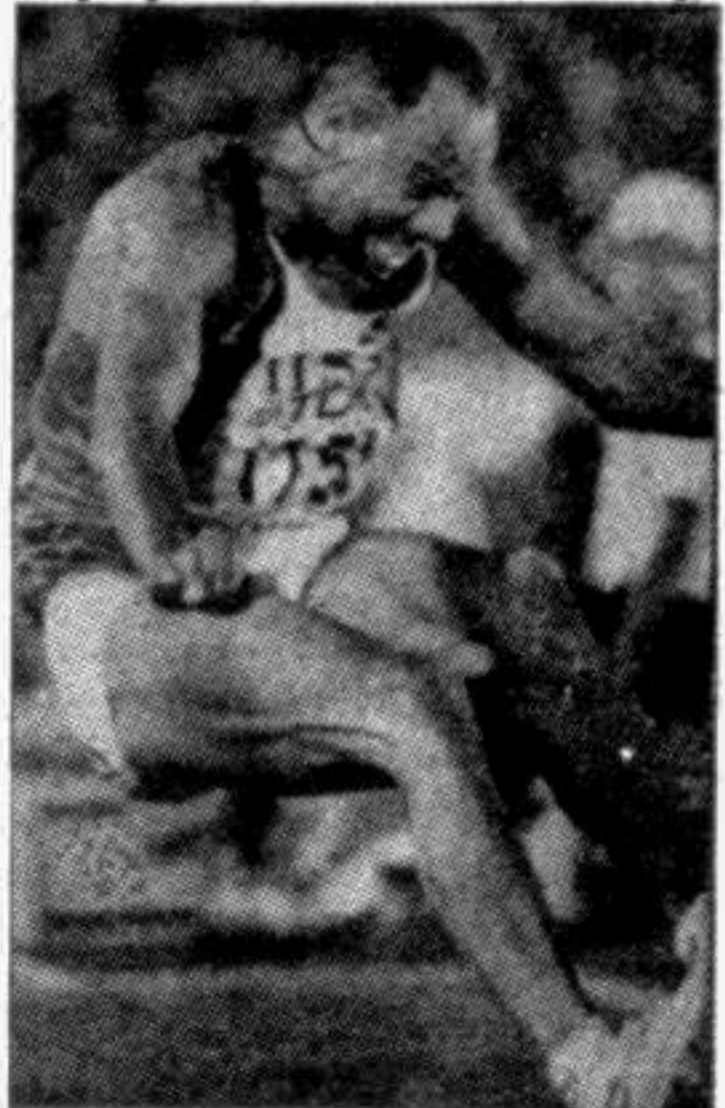
"Last year, I determined to improve because Carl Lewis was going to improve," Powell said.

Lewis, who set the world record of 9.86 seconds in the 100 metres in Tokyo last year, failed to make the US Olympic

team in the 100 and 200 metre dashes, but made the team in the long jump event.

Dennis Mitchell, who won the bronze in the 100-metres dash in the Barcelona Olympics, said his goal on Saturday is to beat Lewis, just like he did not the 100-meter trial for the US Olympic Team, but not to go for a record.

"I'm targeting to be as consistent as possible and run as well as possible against Carl," said Mitchell, who ran 10.04 seconds in the Barcelona Olympics. "But I've been very



MIKE POWELL

very tired. I'm just glad to get it over with, without trying to

set any type of record but just run well against Carl and go home smiling," he said.

Russian pole vaulter Sergey Bubka, who holds the world record of 6.12 metres (20-1), but shocked fans with a no-record performance at the Olympics, said he didn't want to comment on his performance Saturday.

Mike Marsh, the gold medal winner in the 200-metre dash, Steve Lewis, silver medalist in the 400-metre dash, and Gwen Torrence, gold medal winner in the women's 200-metre



CARL LEWIS

dash, also are to participate in Saturday's meet.

Ukrainians await a bright future

KIEV, Sept 18: The odds will be stacked against Ukrainian athletes when they compete in the Olympics for the first time in their own right, denied the old advantages of the formidable Soviet sports machine, reports Reuters.

One will be the vast organisation which supplied much of the coaching and equipment and channelled promising athletes through a well-oiled training system.

One too will be dozens of top-quality facilities located in Russia and other former Soviet republics now considered foreign states. "Lacking most of all will be money."

The second most powerful former republic will find its athletes scrambling for sponsors to provide for its most basic needs—kit, equipment and even transport, all payable in scarce convertible currency. "Given the shortage of funds for Ukrainian sport, only the year best athletes liable to finish sixth or better will be going to Lillehammer at Atlanta," Valery Borzov, head of Ukraine's national Olympic committee, said in an interview.

"And that means giving priority to those sports in which Ukrainian athletes are regarded as favourites."

For Ukraine, those sports are most likely to be athletics, gymnastics, wrestling, fencing, handball and rowing.

Ukrainian athletes competing in the joint CIS team at the Barcelona Olympics collected four individual gold medals.

Winners were greeted with the blue and yellow national flag and the revived 19th century national anthem "Ukraine Has Yet to Perish."

"I frankly never believed I would hear the anthem and see the flag," said gymnast Tatyana Goutsou, who won four medals in Barcelona, "including two golds."

"I believe we will win even more Olympic medals in Atlanta if we go as an independent team."

Showing the flag was also important to the country's leadership. Keen to boost sagging public morale amid economic uncertainty and plunging living standards.

President Leonid Kravchuk told Olympic champions at a lavish ceremony last week they had underscored what Ukrainians wanted when they

voted overwhelmingly for independence in a referendum last December.

"Victories at the Olympics in Barcelona were not only a sporting but also a political act," he said.

Kravchuk issued an official order obliging the government to resolve financial arrangements, including convertible currency, for athletes competing in the Olympics and other top-level championships.

But Borzov, Olympic 100 metres gold medalist at the 1972 Munich Games, and



SERGEI BUBKA

other top officials harbour no illusions about the task facing them.

The most modern sports installations have reverted to Russia, especially in shooting, archery, yachting and Alpine and cross-country skiing.

Most senior coaches and sports doctors have also remained in Ukraine's giant northern neighbour.

Developing mass sport and encouraging young hopefuls is proving a difficult business in the economic crisis.

Professionals swimming lessons cost about 400 to 600 coupons (Ukraine's quasi-currency) a month — a near-impossible burden for the average salary of about 35,000.

Sponsorship is gaining some ground.

Infosport, a firm created by the Sports Ministry and Olympic committee, collects revenue from advertising and other ventures to help Ukrainian teams competing in championships.

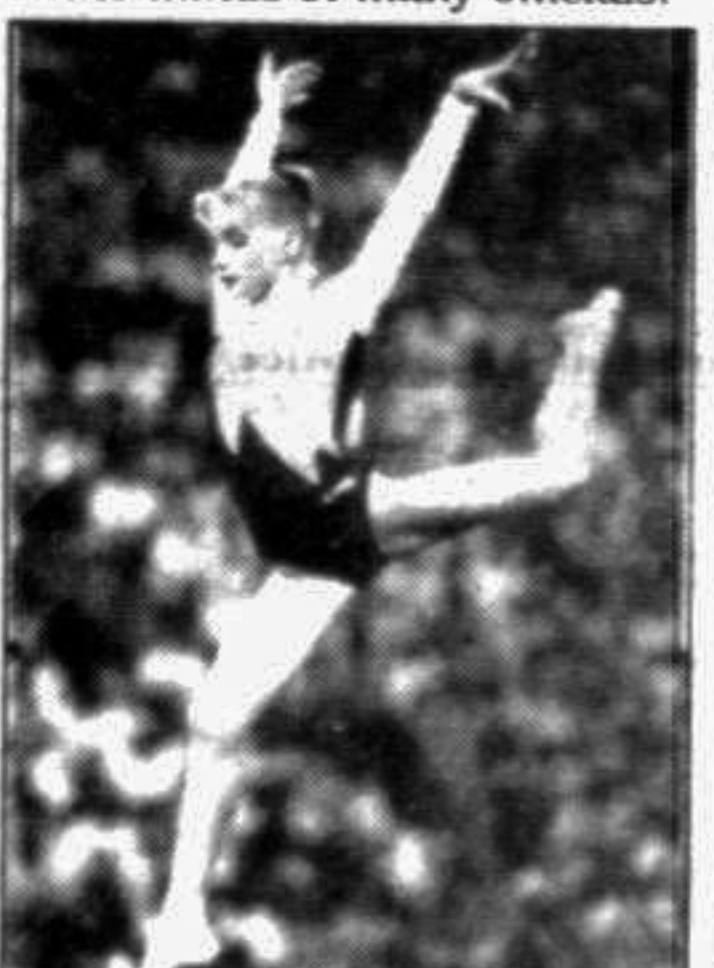
Soccer and ice hockey teams — once financed by state institutions, the army and police — are lining up joint ventures based in Ukraine to help

make ends meet.

Some have left the country altogether: pole vault world record holder Serget Bubka, Ukraine's biggest disappointment in Barcelona where he failed to clear a height, lives in Germany.

But most Ukrainian athletes view the prospect of competing on their own at the Olympics as a chance to distinguish themselves and boost the prestige of their country.

Disputes and misunderstandings with Russia are fresh in the minds of many officials.



TATYANA GOUTSOU

The most prominent involved selection of the artistic gymnastics team. Two Ukrainians who went to win gold and bronze were initially passed over by Russian coaches apparently intent on giving their own candidates a chance of acquiring top-level experience.

Many Ukrainians resented the absence of their own television commentators in Barcelona as well as admonitions from Moscow-based journalists that a United Team was the best way to capture medals.

President Kravchuk's order called for more Ukrainian coverage to redress the balance. But even he seemed to realise he was powerless to change everything for the better.

He apologized for the fact that authorities, who traditionally rewarded Soviet medalists with lavish gifts, were able only to offer a Tauria car — the cheapest available and viewed as a cousin to East Germany's defunct Trabant.

"We simply don't have any others," he said. "Let's hope can provide something more comfortable for Atlanta."

It's tragedy of chess, says Kasparov

HELSINKI, Sept 18: World chess champion Garry Kasparov said Friday that former champion Bobby Fischer, playing a dirr 5 million match in Yugoslavia, is ruining the reputation of the game, reports AP.

"Today we are seeing somebody who came back and who is insulting all leading players, and who doesn't play good chess," Kasparov said on Finnish television.

Kasparov said that Fischer was a great example for him when he beat the Soviet player, Boris Spassky, in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1972.

"He was the head of the chess world. But now the legend of the best player of chess has been destroyed, which is bad for chess," Kasparov said.

Fischer, after a 20-year absence from the game, ignored United Nations and US sanctions to play the rematch with Spassky.

"We have to recognize that whatever, the result of the match, Spassky is very weak today and Fischer's quality of the game is very poor," Kasparov said.

"What is happening in Yugoslavia right now for me is a little tragedy of chess. It's very sad," he added.

During a news conference before the Yugoslavia match, Fischer insulted Kasparov and other world-class players.

Kasparov, 29, from the former Soviet Union, has defended his world title since taking it from fellow Soviet player Anatoli Karpov in 1985.

Kasparov was in Finland to inaugurate the Helsinki Open chess championships to begin Saturday.

Muster moves up in Cologne Open

COLOGNE, Sept 18: Top-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria beat Spain's Juan Antonio Gishert 4-6, 7-6, (7-5) 7-6, (7-5) on Thursday in the dirr 330,000 Cologne Open Grand Prix tennis tournament, reports AP.

Muster was down 2-5 in the second set at one point but battled through two tie-breaks to beat the Spaniard on the clay courts of Rot-Weiss stadium.

In other third-round matches, Marcos Ondruska of South Africa beat German David Prinosil 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, and 4th-seeded Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay defeated Martin Strelba of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-2.

Listless Huang bows to Kartika

SEMARANG, Indonesia, Sept 18: Indonesia's unseeded Yuni Kartika Friday scored an upset win in the women's singles against the Malaysian Open champion Huang Hua from China, on the third day of the Indonesia Open badminton championships, reports AP.

Hua appeared not to be on top form while playing against Yuni who thrashed her in a fast 11-1, 11-2. Hua told journalists later that her recently injured right knee, started to cause her pain again.

Many of Huang's shots ended up stuck in the net or outside the lines.

Other seeds in the women's singles won their respective matches as expected. Indonesia's Sarwendah beat Sweden's Christina Magnusson 11-7, 12-10 while China's Ye Zhaoying had an equally easy time beating Indonesia's Yulian Santoso 11-5, 11-3.

A tougher fight took place between Indonesia's Metiawati and Sweden's Lim Xiao Qing which ended with Lim taking the game after a stretched match 5-11, 11-5, 11-7.

The host mixed double team of Denny Kantono and Zelin also lost 9-15, 7-15 to the Danish English combination of Jan Paulsen and Gillian Clark.



The USA Song and Dance and Fashionable Dress Art Group models in America's newest swimsuits for 1992 in their show at the Capital Gym on September 16. The show, which included Lambada and break dance and also a Madonna impersonator, was one of the raciest the capital had ever seen.

—AFP photo

Gustafsson to miss Davis Cup semis



BASTAD, Sweden, Sept 18: Magnus Gustafsson, who twisted his ankle in practice earlier this week, has been dropped from the Swedish team that will face the United States in the Davis Cup semifinals next weekend, it was reported Friday, reports AP.

Christian Bergstrom or Nicklas Kulti will replace Gustafsson, who won three singles matches in the competition earlier this year, including a five-set clincher in the quarterfinals against Canada in Vancouver.

Gustafsson was battling with Magnus Larsson for the other singles berth on the team alongside Stefan Edberg, who regained his world No 1 ranking by winning his second straight US Open title Sunday.

Swedish captain John Anders Sjogren said he will not pick a substitute for Gustafsson until next week in Minneapolis, where the semifinal will be played on indoor clay.

"The rules say that I can only make one change on the original team," Sjogren said. "If another player is injured I can't replace him. So I will have to wait as long as possible, maybe until Thursday's draw, before naming the substitute."

Larsson, who is ranked 35th in the world, is still expected to share singles duties

with Edberg. Larsson has beaten several of the world's top players, including Edberg and Boris Becker, on clay courts.

Gustafsson was injured during Tuesday's practice on an indoor clay court in this western Swedish town.

"It was really bad luck," Swedish coach Carl Axel Hageskog said. "Magnus was injured during the very last rally of the training session."

The Swedish team will leave for the United States on Saturday. Edberg, who stayed in the United States after the US Open, also is expected to team with Anders Jarryd in the doubles match against the Americans.

Lendl in 3rd round

BORDEAUX, France, Sept 18: Former world number-one and top seed Ivan Lendl moved safely into the third round of the 330,000 dollar ATP tournament here on Thursday when he beat Spain's Alex Corretja in straight set, reports AP.

The Czech-born American was always in charge as he chalked up a 6-1, 6-4 win.

Eighth-seeded French player Fabrice Santoro failed badly against compatriot Cedric Pielone when he was beaten 3-6, 2-6.

IBM offers its coffer for Atlanta Games

ATLANTA, Sept 18: US Olympic officials and IBM executives said here Thursday that the company will be a major sponsor of the 1996 Olympic Games, reports AP.

International business machines officials said the company will provide millions of dollars worth of technology and several hundred workers for the Games in Atlanta.

The company will be involved in day-to-day operations of the Games, using its technology to make sure the Olympics run smoothly. IBM provided similar services for this year's Games in Barcelona.

Executives estimated that IBM's contributions in technology and services would exceed 40 million dollars.

In Washington, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), a branch of the Justice Department, said it would provide more than one million dollars of federal government money for a security and public safety plan at the Games.

Rabanales wins WBC crown



OSAKA, Japan, Sept 18: Victor Rabanales of Mexico stopped Japan's Joichiro Tatsuyoshi in the ninth round Thursday, taking away his World Boxing Council bantamweight championship, reports AP.

There were no knockdowns in the scheduled 12-round title match before 12,000 spectators Osaka Castle Hall.

The end came at the 1:19 of the ninth round. American referee Richard Steel stopped the fight as Rabanales was pounding Tatsuyoshi with body blows.

The 22-year-old Tatsuyoshi, fighting his first match after a one-year layoff, looked at ease in the early rounds but lost his rhythm after the fourth round.

"When he slowed down, I thought I could win much faster. But I had to fight through the ninth round be-

cause he was such a good boxer. He was so tough, I felt my punches hurt him little," said the 29-year-old Rabanales.

The Mexican continuously unleashed his long punches wildly and withstood Tatsuyoshi's body blows in the early rounds.

Tatsuyoshi began swaying his body to avoid Rabanales' body blows in the fifth round.

In the sixth, Rabanales began pressing the attack with 1-2 combinations while Tatsuyoshi countered with quick 1-2s to his opponent's face.

Rabanales, looking tired, slowed in the seventh, but landed a series of blows to the body.

Tatsuyoshi appeared groggy in the eighth and was unable to keep up his footwork and resorted to clinching. Rabanales forced him into the ropes.

A doctor checked Tatsuyoshi's eye but the fight was resumed. Rabanales continued

to punish Tatsuyoshi before the referee stopped the fight.

Last September in Osaka, Tatsuyoshi wrested the title from American Greg Richardson with a 10th-round technical knockout in only his eighth professional fight.

He originally was scheduled to make his first defense in February but cancelled it due to an operation on his left eye.

With the cancellation, Rabanales became interim champion by beating South Korea's Lee Yong-hoon in March.

It was Tatsuyoshi's first defeat after seven victories, six of them by knockout, and one draw.

Rabanales improved his mark to 34 victories, including 19 knockouts, against 10 defeats and two draws.

Rabanales weighed in at 53.3 kilograms (117 1/2 pounds) and Tatsuyoshi at 53.2 kilograms (117 1/4).

Oerter: An epitome of Olympic spirit



NEW YORK, Sept 18: He seemed out of place in the crowd of youthful Olympians. But the truth is

that on one in the room belonged there more than Al Oerter, reports AP.

A gold medalist in the discus at four straight Olympics,

ISPA's plan for new scoring system

LONDON, Sept 18: Legendary squash player Jahangir Khan could see his playing career extended if plans to reduce injuries by changing the scoring system on the world circuit are introduced, reports AP.

The Pakistani hero is ending a six-month absence at next week's World Open in Johannesburg, where players will be advocating an American-style point-per-rally scoring up to nine points.

With matches currently running to 15 points, the change could reduce match times from 90 to about 50 minutes.

Jahangir, the British Open champion a record 10 times has had a serious back injury, raising doubts about his long-term future in the sport even at the age of 28.

In the past 18 months, all of the world's top five men have spent time convalescing, and Chris Robertson, Australia's World Open finalist will be out next week with a thigh and hip problem.

"We originally experimented with the shorter scoring to make squash more attractive for the spectators," said Roger Eady, head of the International Squash Players' Association (ISPA).

"We have a sinister list of injuries which suggests we have to shorten the game for the sake of the players. It has begun to be our number one priority."

Eady will make a presentation in Johannesburg to the sport's governing body, the International Squash Rackets Federation, hoping to win approval for a further experiment. Whatever the outcome ISPA is likely to go ahead anyway.

beginning in 1956 at Melbourne, Australia, Oerter rates as one of the all-timers in the history of the Games. Spend a few minutes talking with him and he moves up on the list.

Oerter, who will be 56 years old Saturday, still plays a big role on the United States' Olympic team. Whether he's extending his massive hand to well-wishers or regaling them with what the Games were like "back then," he can't help but personally all the things the Olympic are supposed to be about.

"I grew up in the Games when they were truly games," Oerter said at on Olympics fund-raiser on Wall Street Thursday. "There were no heroes. You didn't bring an ego out on the field. You didn't

have a sack of chemicals back in the dorm."

"You truly competed because you loved it. Winning was nice, but it wasn't all there was."

Oerter retired in 1969, one year after winning his fourth Olympic gold, then made a comeback in 1977. The following year, remarkably, he set a personal best of 67.46 metres (221 feet-4 inches), and in 1980, placed fourth at the US Trials.

Among the items auctioned off Thursday was a discus signed by Oerter that sold for dirr 700. In all, the USOC expected to raise more than dirr 300,000 from the combination cocktail party-memorabilia auction.

Oerter spends time now



An undated AFP file photo of a smiling Moroccan soccer player Larbi Ben Barek, one of the most famous African footballers ever, who was found dead on Wednesday at his home in Casablanca. He was 75.

helping raise money for tomorrow's Olympians and recognises the growing role that business plays is vital.

"You can't afford the Games without corporate sponsors," he said. "It's absolutely essential."

At the same time, he remembers what it was like before big business played any role at all. You can see the passion in his eyes as he encourages athletes not to get so caught up in business that they miss out on what really is "the Olympic experience."

"If you go back years later and say 'I really enjoyed it' because I was with the best of the best and I was working my fanny off trying to be among the best of the best, then you look back with smiles for the rest of your life," Oerter said.

"But when you HAVE to win and your ego's on the line or your contract — it's that's on the line and you don't gold medal, you look back with disappointment. That's not right."

When he makes public appearances, Oerter said, "people are asking about the kids working in the backwoods and trying to get to the Games. That still excites people."

It's not hard to see that it still excites Oerter, too.

Asked why he's still involved after all these years, he doesn't even have to think about it.

"The athletes and what the Games really mean," he says. "It's not the kinds of things we saw in Barcelona, the Dream Team and that stuff. It's the rowers and wrestlers and folks that are working in virtual obscurity for elusive goals."

"That's as laudable today as it was back then and will be in the future. It's still what the Games mean to me."

Mochrie on course for LPGA triple crown

KENT, Wash, Sept 18: Dotie Mochrie, an LPGA triple crown in her sight, shot a 3-under-par 69 on Thursday to fashion a one-stroke lead in the first round of the dirr 450,000 Safeco Classic, reports AP.

String of upsets breathes life into Rio soccer

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 18: A series of shock results on Wednesday finally breathed some life into the Rio De Janeiro soccer championship, marred by low attendances, poor football and the closure of the Maracana Stadium, reports Reuters.

Leaders Fluminense were beaten 2-1 at home by underdog Bangu. Brazilian champions Flamengo were held 2-2 by America's Rios and Botafogo conceded a last minute equaliser against America Rio De Janeiro.

Bangu winger Gilson scored the winning goal as his team ended Fluminense's unbeaten run in match marred by two sendings-off. Mazola of Fluminense and Oliveira of Bangu were shown the red card for fighting in the second half.



Salih Mteri takes aim in the skeet event at the pan-Arab Games now being held in the Syrian capital Damascus. He won the gold medal.

—AFP photo