

Mitchell pips a lazy Carl Lewis as Bubka betters world record, again



TOKYO, Sept 19: If his failure to clear any height at the Barcelona Olympics left anyone in doubt, pole vaulter Sergey Bubka proved once again Saturday that no one soars higher than the birdman of the Ukraine, reports AP.

Carl Lewis, however, left many fans wondering anew.

Bubka soared to his 32nd world record at Saturday's Toto International Track Meet, easily clearing 6.13 metres (20 feet 1 1/2 inches) on his first attempt to better the world record of 6.12 metres (20-1) he marked in Padua, Italy, on Aug 30.

Bubka chose not to raise the bar after clearing 6.13, although a computer analysis by a television network estimated he could have gone as high as 6.37 (20-10 3/4) on his record-setting jump.

He has raised the world record by one centimeter on each of his last eight record-setting outings, most likely because each new record brings him a hefty bonus from meet organisers.

"I hope I can keep this going until Atlanta," the elated superstar said through an interpreter. Atlanta is to host the 1996 Olympics.

But Bubka added, "I try to forget these things as soon as possible. All I want to think of now is jumping 6.14."

SWEET REVENGE

AFP adds: For Bubka, world champion three times running, it was his 32nd record, although half of them have been set at indoor events.

"I just leaped and it resulted in the new record," said Bubka.

"I hope to continue the vault until the next Olympics in Atlanta."

For Bubka, it was sweet revenge over Barcelona gold medalist Miksim Tarasov of Russia, who failed his three attempts at 5.80m.

He finished second with 5.70m.

Vasily Bubka, Sergei's elder



Women's 100m winner Gwyn Torrence of the USA.

—Star file photo

LEWIS LAGS BEHIND

Lewis, however, may well have been hoping to forget his

brother, was third on 5.60m.

own performance for other reasons.

Lewis, who set the world record of 9.86 seconds in the 100 metres here last year, was unable to catch up with the fast-starting Dennis Mitchell, who finished in 10.18.

Mitchell won the US Olympic Trials' 100, in which Lewis failed to even place. He also outran Lewis in Turin, Italy, earlier this month and in Copenhagen in August.

"I've been studying Carl's weaknesses," said Mitchell. "It was my plan to get ahead of him in the first 40 metres."

"I'm very pleased with today's race," he said. "This is the first year I've come out a race or two ahead of Carl."

"Tonight I was pretty tight, so it wasn't a good race," Lewis said. "It's irrelevant. Overall I had a good season."

Lewis was timed at 10.25, and third-place finisher Frank Fredericks of Namibia was

clocked at 10.27.

Organisers split the 100-metre race into two separate finals, with the victor of each going into the books as a 100-metre winner.

The favourite to win the other heat was former world record holder Leroy Burrell. But Burrell was slow out of the blocks after being called back for a false start, and finished a dismal fifth with a 10.69.

In the 200-metre dash, Lewis' Santa Monica Track Club teammate Mike Marsh glided to a 20.59 victory. Finishing second was Floyd Heard at 21.23.

The Santa Monica sprinters — Lewis, Burrell, Marsh and Heard — also teamed up for a new meet record of 39.18 in the 400-metre relay. Marsh, Burrell, Dennis Mitchell and Lewis set the world record of 37.40 in Barcelona last month.

Lewis sat out the long jump, taking the pressure off Mike Powell, who won with a final jump of 8.36 metres (27-5) but failed to improve on the world record of 8.95 metres (29-4 1/3) he kept to here at last year's World Championships.

Finishing second with an 8.02 (26-3 3/4) was fellow American Mike Conley, the Olympic triple jump champion.

In other events, Moroccan long-distance star Khalid Skah won the 10,000 metres in 27:55.88, a new meet record, and American Steve Lewis, who won the silver in Barcelona, won the 400-metre dash in 45.22.

America's Gwen Torrence, the 200-metre Olympic champion, won the 100-metre dash in 11.43. Jamaica's Juliet Cuthbert finished second in 11.76.

Olympic silver medalist Sandra Patrick-Farmer of the United States breezed to an easy win over her Japanese competition in the 400-metre hurdles. She finished the race in 56.69, well off her best of 53.37.

Organisers said a sellout crowd of 70,000 turned out at National Stadium to watch the meet.

Mike Powell

MIKE POWELL

Jahangir promises a surprise



LONDON, Sept 19: Jahangir Khan has warned opponents not to write him off when he makes his comeback after a long injury layoff at next week's World Squash Open in Johannesburg, reports Reuters.

The 28-year-old Pakistani, who recorded the last of his six world title victories in 1988, has been away from the circuit virtually all year since suffering a back injury.

His only tournament appearance was in the Spanish Open in Madrid in March and that lasted just one game before he was forced to withdraw because of the injury in his first round match.

The Open begins on Monday, September 21.

Jahangir has slumped from top place to number five, his lowest ranking in 12 years, while his compatriot and great rival Jansher Khan has dominated the circuit.

But now Jahangir proclaims himself fully fit. He has been playing in a series of exhibition matches in South Africa and says, "I think I will surprise the people who have written me off. I am fit and confident and perhaps the rest has done me good."

And his rivals will recall that once before the Pakistani made the doubters eat their words. He was away from the circuit for five months after suffering extreme mental and

physical exhaustion in 1989, but then returned to such good effect that he regained his top ranking, won a record 10th British Open and reached the World Open final.

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