

Sport

Joyner-Kersee — athlete with a difference

NEW YORK, Oct 6: Jackie Joyner-Kersee has a simple philosophy. "If you give the world the best you have, the world will give back to you," she says, quoting from a mid-1800s poet, Madeline Bridges, reports AP.

The self-effacing Joyner-Kersee has given the world her best on the athletic field and her rewards have been plentiful.



JOYNER-KERSEE Third-time winner

indoor record in the long jump.

The most recent honour came Monday when Joyner-Kersee was named Amateur Sports Woman of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation. It was the third time she won the award. Her previous selections were in 1987 and 1988.

"I didn't think I would win this award," Joyner-Kersee said. "When I read the list of nominees, I gave it to everyone else."

The voters, however, disagreed.

They considered Joyner-Kersee's accomplishments from August 1991 to July 1992, plus the events at the Barcelona Olympics, better than any other woman amateur. At the Games, she won the heptathlon gold medal for the second consecutive time with 7,044 points, the sixth-highest score ever (she also owns the top five), and took the bronze medal in the long jump.

During the voting period, she also won the long jump at the 1991 World Championships and set the American

record in the long jump. She is deeply concerned about what is happening off the playing field, worrying about the poor, underprivileged youngsters in her native East St Louis, Ill. and the nation's homeless and starving people.

"Helping the youngsters is not a mission," she said. "It is something I always enjoy doing, because I want to. It's not for publicity, I find satisfaction in doing it."

"I try to tell them I started where they are now and that I persevered."

"I could have retired after the '88 Olympics (when she won gold medals in the heptathlon and the long jump), but I wanted to meet the challenges of '92. I'm not going to give up easily."

"My long-term goal is to finish my athletic career on American soil."

For the 31-year-old Joyner-Kersee, that means competing in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. She figures that will be fitting, since she began her distinguished Olympic career by winning a silver medal in the heptathlon, missing the gold by only five points, at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

"If Atlanta wasn't there, I don't think I would continue," the multi-faceted Joyner-Kersee said. "The '96 Games being on American soil is a blessing."

Meanwhile, Joyner-Kersee will continue her quiet crusade to help the nation's less fortunate people.

"What I have done for my country is very little," she said. "I've accomplished some things in athletics, but there are so many people homeless and starving."

"When I'm speaking (before a group), I hope my small voice can get across to others, so we don't have people homeless and starving."

"I'm not going back (to play for the Netherlands). I told reporters on Tuesday he hoped Gullit would change his mind and return to the national side for their World Cup game in Turkey in December."

His unavailability for the Netherlands has not helped Advocaat, whose side for next week's World Cup qualifying tie against Poland is all the weaker for the midfielder's absence.

Advocaat made several changes to the squad on Tuesday after his team's shock 2-1 defeat in Norway in their opening qualifier.

He recalled PSV captain Gerald Vanenburg in place of Genoa winger John van 't Schip, after the two settled their differences, and dropped Ajax defenders Danny Blind and Frank de Boer for PSV defender Berry van Aerle and Ajax midfielder Wim Jonk.

Vanenburg had indicated he would return to the Dutch squad only if he would play from the start. "It must have been a good discussion," a

title with an easy win here yesterday, reports AFP.

The New Zealander, who is one of the greatest women players of all time, said: "There is virtually no prize money. NO hotel bonus and this isn't even like an A grade tournament."

But what really spoils Devoy's day, despite her comfortable 9-0, 9-1, 9-3 first round victory over Germany's Sabine Baum, was that husband coach John Oakley had to pay to get in.

"It's a disgrace," said Devoy. "It's the first time I have known this to happen. It's the pits."

"It makes you ask why are you here. Can you imagine that happening at tennis, or to Jahangir Khan or Jansher Khan?"

"Of course they want to make money out of this tournament. But they shouldn't do it at our expense."

"When John and I questioned them at the door, they said to us do you think you are any different? I said that if you are number 64 in the world you should have the right to bring a coach in free."

"They said to us we expected you would be our greatest challenge. It's not the money that is the problem, it's the principle."

Oakley was asked to pay 30 Canadian dollars, compared with the cost of 100 or 200 which the public is being charged for seats.

"We had to have a control mechanism over the numbers coming in, and this was how we decided to do it," explained the chairman of the organising committee John Furlong.

"If we didn't do this we would have 100 to 150 seats for which we could not take money and the tournament cannot afford that."

"We discussed it with squash Canada, the sponsor, silver unicorn, and the women's International Squash Players Association, and they all agreed with the decision."

"This is not a money-grabbing exercise. This is only a 300,000 dollar (41,500 dollars in prize money) tournament and we are on a tight budget."

"I understand his people feel he is not obliged to fight the winner of Lewis and Ruddock and I know Holyfield himself will count the money before looking at the site."

Bruno, who lost previous world title challenges to Mike Tyson and Tim Wiltseerspoon said: "With Tyson out of the reckoning things are wide open."

"I'm a more mature fighter now — mentally and physically — and I feel this is my time."

"It's a nice carrot to be dangling in front of me, but at the

moment I have to put all thoughts of Holyfield out of my mind."

"I have to concentrate 100 percent on Coetzer. If my mind starts to wander everything could go out the window."

Duff, who envisages a 30,000 plus crowd at Wembley, said Bruno would earn two million pounds.

Duff's offer to Bruno was swiftly dismissed as a "cheap publicity stunt" by Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager.

"I have got a signed contract that Holyfield or Bowe will fight Lewis or Ruddock before April 1993. It is a legal document which I have had since July," said Maloney.

Olympic gold winners to be in China's Who's Who

BEIJING, Oct 6: All Chinese athletes who won gold medals in the 25th Olympic Games and their coaches will be listed in 'China's Who's Who', reports Xinhua.

According to GU Boping, Secretary General of the research centre for Chinese and foreign celebrities, the centre will present the athletes and their coaches with an illustrated book entitled 'China's Who's Who' compiled by the centre, to commend them upon their excellent performance in the Olympic Games.

both looked a bit jaded.

"I have a practice match lined up for Ibrox on Saturday and I want Gary to be there if possible. He is important at our set pieces and the last thing we need is to have the preparation interrupted. It's bad news and very annoying."

Roxburgh has made four changes from last month's squad, with the Hearts pair of John Robertson and Craig Levein returning with Ian Ferguson of Rangers and Celtic's John Collins.

Out go Richard Gough, suspended for one game because of his handling offence in Switzerland but injured in any case. Gordon Durie of Tottenham, Aberdeen's Stewart McKimmie and Duncan Ferguson of Dundee United.

Pele's new job

TOKYO, Oct 6: Former soccer idol Pele has signed a contract worth an estimated dollar 200,000 with a Japanese sports body as an advisor to help their bid to be one of the venues of the 2002 World Cup finals, newspapers reported on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The reports said the contract required the Brazilian to advise on the planned construction of a stadium in Aomori, north Japan, and to conduct a soccer school there.

South Korea, China, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia have also expressed an interest in hosting the finals.

cantona back in French squad

PARIS, Oct 6: French football coach Gerard Houllier has persuaded temperamental striker Eric Cantona to return to the national team for next week's World Cup qualifiers, reports AFP.

The Leeds United star has not played for France since the European Championships in June. After his country were beaten in Bulgaria last month, Cantona said he wanted a rest from international football.

But Cantona was named by Houllier on Monday in the 17-man squad to take on Austria in Paris on October 14. The match is crucial after France lost their opening Group Six qualifier in Sofia and extended their run without a win to nine games.

The coach said: Cantona's case has been resolved. He is coming back definitively, and that is a good thing.

"This presence will be an enormous boost for us. I am excepting a lot of him and Jean-Pierre Papin."

Caen striker Xavier Gravelaine was given his first call up on his 24th birthday. Monaco striker Jerome Gnako is also called up.

Former Formula One champ dies

BATHURST, Australia, Oct 6: Former Formula One world driving champion Denis Hulme of New Zealand died Sunday after suffering an apparent heart attack during the Toohy's 1,000-kilometres endurance race, reports AP.

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Race officials said the 56-year-old Hulme, who won the 1967 Formula One driving championship in a Brabham Repco, was dead on arrival at a nearby hospital. They said it appeared he suffered the attack before crashing his BMW on lap 33 of the 161-lap race.

Observers said the BMW coasted gently off the circuit in a rain-soaked race at the end of Conrod Straight, where emergency crews found him unconscious. He was taken by ambulance to Bathurst hospital. Doctors failed in a bid to resuscitate him.

The only other death in the 30-year history of the race occurred in 1986, when Australian driver Mike Burgram crashed into a wall.

Race chief medical officer Bill Croker said at a news conference that it appeared Hulme died almost instantly.

The rescue crews arrived there in two minutes and at that point in time he was deceased," he said.

"Resuscitation was commenced for about 45 minutes but there was no response at any time."

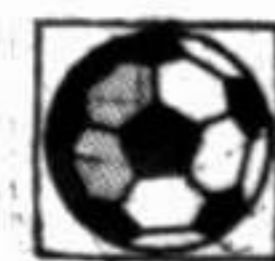
Only seconds earlier, Hulme reportedly radioed through to his pit crew and said he was having difficulty with his vision, but it was not known whether that was due to the torrential rain or his medical condition.

Dr Croker said he was unsure whether Hulme had a history of heart problems or whether he was not well prior to the race.



Boris Spassky (R) passes a sheet of paper with journalists' questions to his rival Bobby Fischer during a press conference after their "World Championship" game in Belgrade on Monday. Fischer leads the series five games to three. — AFP photo

Gullit's decision reaps no immediate result



RUUD GULLIT

had a long chat with the coach last week and I told him that I would not play in Rotterdam against Poland," he said on Monday.

My reasons are personal and I won't say any more. His reasons are widely considered to have been forced on him to ensure Milan have no excuse to drop him.

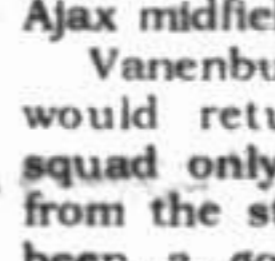
But despite scoring twice against Fiorentina and playing in last week's European Cup tie at Ujinja Ljubljana, Gullit will be rested by coach Fabio Capello dropped in favour of Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin.

Milan's other two Dutchmen, Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten are expected to play in the side restricted by Italian rules from fielding no more than three foreigners.

NETHERLANDS: Stanley Menzo, Ed de Goey, Sonny Slooy, Berry van Aerle, Ronald Koeman, Frank Rijkaard, Gerard Vanenburg, Rob Witschge, Wim Jonk, Arthur Numan, Jan Wouters, Aron Winter, Dennis Bergkamp, Peter van Vossen, Wim Kieft, Marco van Basten.

POLAND: Jaroslaw Bako, Jozef Wandzik, Fadam Matysek, Marek Kozminski, Andrzej Lesiak, Marek Rzepka, Roman Szewczyk, Tomasz Waldoch, Piotr Czechowski, Dariusz Adamczuk, Jerzy Brzeznek, Robert Warzycha, Krzysztof Warzycha, Andrzej Juszkowalac, Roman Kosecki, Jacek Ziobor, Wojciech Kowalczyk.

Devoy flies off the handle as hubby pays to get in



DEVVOY

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"We last World Open lost about 80,000 dollars and we can't let that happen here."

Brad Gilbert in Toulouse Open second round

TOULOUSE, France, Oct 6: Brad Gilbert of the United States, third seeded in the dlr 315,000 Toulouse Open tennis tournament, won in the first round Monday beating Christian Minussi of Argentina, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Another Gilbert, Rodolphe of France, also won. He beat Nicklas Kulti of Sweden, 6-3, 6-4.

Jonas Svensson of Sweden eliminated Stefano Pescosolido of Italy, 6-4, 6-2; Arnaud Boetsch of France downed Andrei Chesnokov of Russia, 6-3, 6-2; and Amos Mansoor of Israel, No. 4 seed, beat Alberto Mancini of Argentina, 6-0, 6-3 in other opening round matches.

Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia, the top seed, and Guy Forget of France, the defending champion, play on Tuesday.

Grewal loses

VANCOUVER, Oct 6: India's Misha Grewal lost in the first round of the women's World Open squash championship here last night, reports Reuter.

Lure of lucre for Holyfield

LONDON, Oct 6: Promoter Mickey Duff has offered world heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield five million pounds (\$5 million dollars) to fight Britain's Frank Bruno in London next year, reports AFP.

Duff said he wanted Holyfield to put his title on the line at Wembley Stadium in late April or early May.

The offer is conditional on Bruno convincingly winning his third comeback fight against South Africa's Pierre Coetzer in London on October 17 and Holyfield making a successful defence against Riddick Bowe in November.

Duff believes he can cut across the title ambitions of Lennox Lewis, also of Britain, who is looking for a world



EVANDER HOLYFIELD

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Mungai pockets \$20,000

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota, Oct 6: Kenya's David Mungai, running the distance for the first time, won the Minneapolis marathon here on Sunday, reports AFP.

He clocked 2 hrs 15 min 33 sec to come home ahead of compatriot and trainer Joseph Nzau (2:16.12) and pocketed the \$20,000 dollar winner's cheque.

The women's event was won by local dentist Janis Keekler (2:36.50).



India's Geet Sethi, 31, holds up his trophy after defeating defending champion Mike Russell, 23, of Britain for the title in the World Professional billiards championships in Bombay on Sunday. — AFP photo