# Barcelona, Bremen in fine fettle



BARCELONA, Mar 9: Spanish champions Barcelona and Werder Bremen of Germany fight out the se-

cond, decisive leg of the European "Super Cup" at Camp Nou Stadium on Wednesday with the score level and both sides in peak form, reports Reuter.

Since last month's 1-1 first leg draw, Barcelona have gone top of the Spanish league with a run of impressive victories while Bremen underlined their well-being with a 3-0 win over Karlsruhe last week which put them second in the Bundesliga.

While both teams' minds are very much on their league prospects, they are also determined to take the trophy which pits the European Cup holders against the Cup Winners' Cup winners.

The Supercup brings prestige to a club and its players. We want to win it as this one is missing from our museum," said Barcelona striker Aitor Beguiristain, who has hit scoring form recently and netted both goals in Sunday's 2-0 win at Albacete.

Midfield dynamo Jose Bakero acknowledged that Bremen were in fine fettle. "We want to show that they can be beaten," he said Confidence is high in the

German camp, although Bre-

men coach Otto Rehhagel conceded to Barcelona sports newspaper El Mundo De portivo that the Catalans must be favourities.



M LAUDRUP

"We don't have too many options after the first leg draw, but naturally we will give it all

we have got," he said. Austrian midfielder Andreas Herzong was upbeat. "We are playing against one of the best teams in the world but we have a real chance. We are flying to Barcelora to get the Cup," he told reporters before the Stoichkov. squad left for Spain.

Both sides have some injury

Richard Witschge, who had to quit the Albacete game with a Hobseh, Wynton Rufer.

recurring leg muscle injury. Danish Maestro Michael Laudrup is nursing a bruised left knee after Sunday's league

match but coach Johan Cruyff hopes he will play. Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov has recovered from flu and will be in the line-up.

Cruyff will have his fingers crossed that his squad emerge unscathed from Wednesday's battle as they prepare for a crucial top-of-the-table home league clash with Deportive Coruna this weekend.

Bremen's problems centre on experienced forward Frank Neubarth, who has an Achilles tendon injury, and midfielder Mirko Votava, who has a cold and a fever. Midfielder Thomas Wolter is also doubtful because

"Neubarth is definitely out but we will have to wait and see about Thomas Wolter," Rehhagel told reporters.

Teams (probable): Barcelona - Andoni Zubizarreta, Albert Ferrer, Ronald Koeman, Pablo Alfaro: Euschio Sacristan, Jose Bakero, Guillermo Amor, Josep Guardiola, Aitor Beguiristain, Michael Laudrup, Hristo

Werder Bremen - Oliver Reck, Rune Brateseth, Dietmar Beiersdorfer, Ulrich Borowka, Barcelona are sure to be Andreas Herzong, Thomas without Dutch midfielder Wolter, Dieter Eilts, Thorsten Legat, Marco Bode, Bernd

### Atlanta mayor pledges help to bring Games to SA

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 9 Mayor Andrew Young of Atlanta, the US city hosting the 1996 Summer Olympics, pledged on Tuesday to help bring the 2004 Games to South Africa, reports Reuter.

"It is an incredible amount of optimism to shoot for the Olympic Games in the year 2004," he told officials of Africa's Olympic South Committee.

"That says that all of your political problems will be solved, that your economy will be on even keel by 1998 when you have to make the bid," the black mayor said.

"You have my support and prayers to make that dream come true ... We owe you one and we'll pay you back."

Young handed over the Olympic flag of Atlanta to South African Olympic Committee chairman Sam Ramsamy.

The Atlanta mayor said he believed one of the reasons the International Olympic Committee chose his city for the 1996 Games was its cthnic and acial diversity.

"In many ways we have been through some of the democratic struggle that you're in the midst of, and I think the Olympics helped us a great deal to focus our attention, to realise diversity is a strength and that the only way to move forward is in peace.



# Defending champs out of contention



Speedy attacker Fabian O' Neil scored a goal in half as Uruguay stunned

defending champion Portugal 2-1 Tuesday night in soccer's World Youth Championship, reports AP. The loss in Brisbane elimi-

nated winless Portugal, winner of the tournament in both 1989 and 1991, from quarterfinal contention. Uruguay now are locked in a

three-way struggle with Germany and Ghana for the two quarterfinal places from Group B of the 16-nation championship. Uruguay and Germany each

have three points after two games, while Ghana have two O'Neil was on target in the

ninth and 88th minutes, while Portugal's goal came from Boavista striker Bambo in the 34th minute.

"A game lasts for 90 minutes, not 89," said angry Portuguese coach Agostinho Oliveira. "There is no reason to lose a game in the last couple of minutes.

Germany needed a spectacular 81st minute overhead kick from striker Carsten Jancker to clinch a 2-2 draw with African champion Ghana Americans and made it hard

ng, a city so desperate for the

torch of the 2000 Games that

it ordered homes to douse

their coal stoves to cut the

To the political hardliners

who control the lives of 1.2

billion Chinese, the Olympics

are a chance to redeem their

image stained with blood after

the 1989 massacre of pro-

democracy demonstrators

cities keen to hold the Games

Sydney, Manchester, Berlin.

Brasilia, and Istanbul are all

bidding and Milan was too un-

til crumpled by political scan-

There are plenty of other

around Tiananmen Square.

smog level, reports Reuter.

by their eager to-

please hosts, a

team of Olympic

Tuesday left Betti-

6880

in the other match of the Brisbane doubleheader.

Ghana the lead 10 minutes earlier after an electrifying 1-2 with Nii Lamptey. Ossei Kuffour opened the scoring for Ghana in the first half and Andre Breitenreiter, equalised.

"In the end we had a little with the morale of the boys.'

England and two-time champion Brazil both scored for the last eight.

England dominated for long

Sheffield Wednesday midfielder Chris Bart-Williams scored the winner in the 69th minute after American goal keeper Jeff Cassar had made a

for more improvement, especoach David Burnside.

We took the game to the

Emmanuel Duah had given

bit of luck," said German coach Rainer Bonhof. "I'm happy to get a point, but more happy

succession of brilliant saves.

"We were vastly improved tonight, but there is still room cially in attack," said England

Tuzun was highly critical of his

important victories to make virtually certain of qualifying

periods but could only manage a 1-0 victory over the Untied States in its Group C match in Melbourne. England will advance to the quarters unless they lose their final match to Turkey by more than four

In the other Group C match, South Korea and Turkey drew 1-1. Cho Jin-ho shot South Korea ahead in the 49th minute and Serkan Recber equalised in the 85th. Turkish coach Hamid Serpil

team's lack of direction. "My team played like a group of unidentifiable moving objects, completely lacking in

intelligence," said Tuzun. Brazil relied on penaltics by playmaker Adriano and Gian to beat Mexico 2-1 in Adelaide, but showed glimpses of top form. Vicente Nieto scored a

"The best aspect of our game tonight was our movement," said Brazilian coach Julio Leal. "I feel we are now on our way to the next stage."

consolation goal for Mexico.

The Brazilians will advance unless they suffer a heavy loss to Norway in their remaining first-round game on Thursday.

"Brazil were just too good," said Mexican coach Juan de Dios Castillo. In Group D in Adelaide,

Saudi Arabia had their second successive 0-0 draw - this time against Norway - and had star player Fahad Al Ghesheyan sent off in the second half for a wild tackle.

"Norway are good team, but we were just a little too anx

From Prime Minister Li

Peng down, the message was

hammered home to the in

spectors that the government

has staked its prestige on get

convinced most Chinese that

the Games are Betting's for the

asking. A rebuff from the

Olympic committee would be a

Inspectors were given the

soft touch - attractive female

companions at their beck and

call - and the hard sell. Li told

them: "The Chinese govern-

ment will give full guarantees

to the Games in terms of

funds, materials and man-

power if Beijing wins the bid,

Xinhua news agency reported

Both China and Australia are

nations in search of a new

identity. Australia is striving to

find its place in Asia in the

Pacific age. China is throwing

off four decades of socialism

and as many centuries of isola-

of the 2.st century would be a

unique selling point - Berlin

as symbol of the new, united

Europe, Istanbul the bridge be-

tween Europe and Asia. Beijing

is grey, dusty and nondescript.

It has a glorious past, however,

and its future glitters in the

in the minds of the Olympic

inspectors, who made it clear

they were interested only in

looking at the city's transport

systems, sports infrastructure

snarled for months by bulldoz-

ers and cranes working fever-

ishly to widen roads and build

new spurs to the subway to

stadiums and gymnasiums and

estimates the Games will cost

The city plans seven new

impress the inspectors.

a billion dollars.

Traffic in Beijing has been

and security arrangements.

But sentiment had no place

defining event for both.

Hosting the first Olympics

Each candidate city has its

Official propaganda has

United States.

ting the Games.

national humiliation.

on Tuesday

distance.

ious," said Saudi coach Carlos Roberto Cabral, who disputed the dismissal of Fahad. "He was dealt with harshly all game,

Norway dominated possession, but could not break through.

"It was not our lucky day, but we have a longstanding problem scoring goals," said Norwegian coach Bjorn Hansen. Uruguay coach Angel

Castelnoble, meanwhile, said he was not surprised his team beat Portugal. "It's no surprise how well

we have done in the tournament so far," he said. "People who know the Uruguay team know that it is a good team." Australia already has quali-

fied for the quarterfinals from Group A. while Cameroon has been eliminated from contention. Russia and Colombia will contest the remaining qualification spot from Group

No matches are scheduled Wednesday, but all 16 teams will be in action on Thursday in the concluding series of first-round matches.

The top two teams from each of four groups will advance to the quarterfinals of the under 20 championships for the Coca-Cola Cup, which continue through March 20.

## Oh, for sexual equality!

SEATTLE, Mar 9: A 16 year-old girl who hopes to be come an Olympic boxer is at the centre of a sex discrimination lawsuit filed Monday by the American Civil Liberties Union, reports AP.

The lawsuit, filed in King County Superior Court on behalf of Jennifer McCleery claims McCleery is being prevented from boxing in viola tion of state anti-discrimina tion laws.

McCleery, who is also a poe and musician, trains as a boxer under the name Dallas Malloy

"Since I started boxing realised how much I love it. she told a news conference "It's like any other sport to me and I feel it's my right to be able to compete with others.

Kathleen Taylor, executive director of the ACLU Washington, said the girl wasn't seeking the right to box against men, only other women.

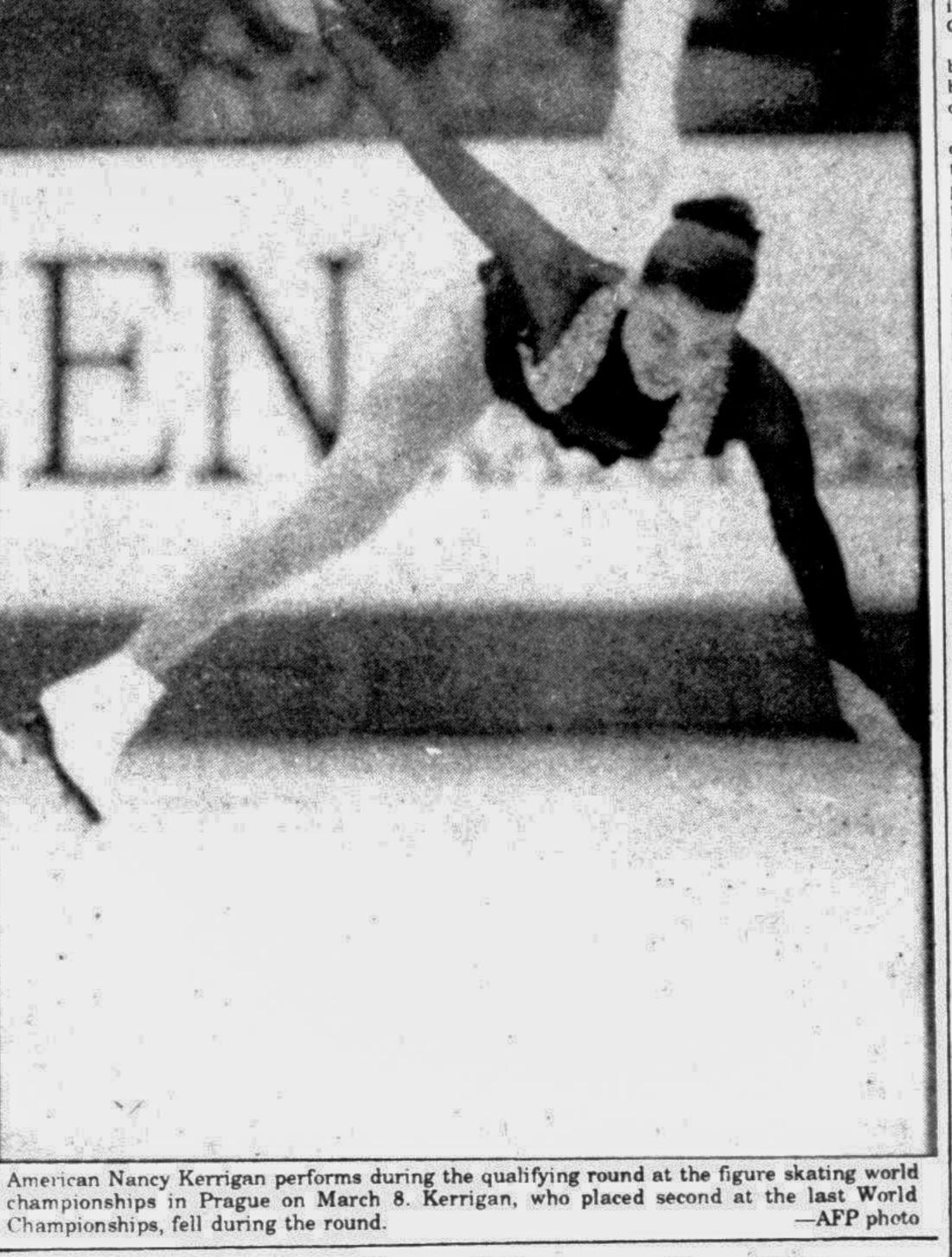
Since August McCleery has been training five days a week at a gym in Bellingham, about 130 kilometres (80 miles) north of Seattle. The ACLU said in a state

ment that the girl "dreams of someday competing in the Olympics, and participation in US Amateur Boxing Association events is the only route to the Olympics

United States Amateur Boxing Inc. which the ACLU says has refuse to send her a membership application, was among the defendants named in the lawsuft. The group's Milwaukee

based legal counsel, Paul C Konnor, said he hadn't seen the complete copy of the law suit and couldn't comment on it. But he said the federation is in the process of starting a women's boxing programme.

Cranney's lame luck SYDNEY, Mar 9: Australian midfielder Seen Cranney is likely to miss the rest of the World Youth Championship with a serious knee injury. team officials said Tuesday



### Accolade for Bonnie Blair World Championships.



INDIANAPOLIS, Mar 9: Bonnie Blair, who captured two gold medals in speed skating at the

Albertville Olym-pics, Monday night won the Sullivan-Award as the nations' top amateur athlete last year, reports AP. The 28-year-old from

champaign, III, finally prevailed in her fourth time as a finalist. Blair is only the third Winter Olympic athlete to win in the award's 63-year history. The others were figure skater Dick Button (1949) and speedskater Eric Heiden (1980).

Blair, winner of the 500 and 1.000 meter events in Albertville, was unable to attend the awards presentation because she is in Europe preparing for the World Cup.

Some 2,500 voters participated in the national balloting, including past winners, journalists, the US Olympic Committee executive board and members of the Amateur Athletic Union board. The voters had to choose

among 10 Olympic gold medalists. The AAU which has presented the award since 1930 in honor of its past president and co-founder, does not announce a runner-up or vote The finalists had been se-

lected from a list of 44 nominees made by the various national governing bodies of ama-

teur sports. The group included Mike Barrowman, who lowered the world record in the 200-meter breaststroke for the sixth time while winning an Olympic gold medal. He was a finalist for the third consecutive year.

BONNIE BLAIR

Two others had been previous finalists - wrestler Bruce Baumgartner and figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi.

Yamaguchi of Fremont, Calif. was nominated for the second consecutive year after becoming the first - American since Dorothy Hamil to win an Olympic gold in women's figure skating. She then won her second consecutive title at the

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invitations

Pablo Morales of Santa Clara, Calif. and Barrowman

were among three swimmers

selected as finalists. They

were joined by Stanford's Summer Sanders of Roseville, Calif. who won three individual championships in last year's NCAA meet and brought home Olympic gold in the 200-meter butterfly. Baumgartner, the first US wrestler to win three Olympic medals, was the oldest finalist at 32. The super-heavyweight

Edinboro University, was a finalist in 1986. An athlete may win the award only once. The other finalists: - Gail Devers, who won Olympic gold in Barcelona in the 100-metre race and was

(286 pounds), who coaches at

when she tripped over the last hurdle in the final. - Oscar De La Hoya, who won Olympic gold as a lightweight boxer and is now competing professionally.

leading the 100-metre hurdles

- Mark Lenzi the former high school wrestler who later turned to diving and became a six-time national champion on the springboard. He had 10 first-place finishes last year including the Olympics.

- Kevin Young, who knocked nearly a half-second off the world record in winning the Olympic gold medal at 400 metres, finishing in 46,78.

### Milan makes up its mind

MILAN, Mar 9: Milan is expected to announce on Wednesday the withdrawal of its bid to host the 2,000 Olympic Games, reports AP.

The decision is expected to be finalized at a meeting of the bid committee Tuesday night, officials said.

The withdrawal has been confirmed by Massimo Moratti, the former bid committee president who resigned after the city government gave only narrow support to the project in January.

Moratti said the political and economic crisis in Italy's financial capital "made the decision to withdraw the candidacy a necessary choice."

"It was also a question of good taste," Moratti said. Going around presenting Milan with a smile on the lips doesn't seem right to me. It also risks compromising the image of the city for its fu-

Moratti said the withdrawal may give the city more of a chance to put together a successful bid for the 2004 Olympics.

Political instability and scandals which are rocking Milan and the entire country were cited as factors undermining Milan's chances of winning the 2000 bid.

Milan is presently without a government following the resignation of mayor Giampiero Borghini, who had supported

the city candidacy.

cal and business leaders are being investigated - and many have been arrested - in a preading scandal of public works kickbacks. Milan's likely decision to drop the bid will be formally

Meanwhile, scores of politi-

Olympic Committee executive board, which meets in Atlanta next week. Still in the race are Beijing, Berlin, Brasilia, Istanbul, Manchester and Sydney. The IOC will select the host city at

submitted to the International

### Casinos fight over rights to promote Riddick Bowe

its session in Monte Carlo on

Sept. 23.

LAS VEGAS, Mar 9: Las Vegas casino heavyweights The Mirage and Caesars may be slugging it out in court over who has the rights to promote heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe's future fights, reports Reuter.

Bowe's next fight is tentatively scheduled for May 22 in Washington, DC, against an undetermined opponent but a rematch against Evander Holyfield, the man he beat last year to win the title, is planned for September 10 at Caesars Palace.

Mirage Resorts Inc filed a multi million-dollar lawsuit against Caesars World Inc on Monday, accusing it of fraudulently winning a contract with

The suit, filed in US fed eral court in Las Vegas, seeks 3 million dollar in general damages plus punitive damages for what Mirage Resorts contended were unfair tactics by Caesars World to get the con-

Mirage Resorts alleged that Caesars World knew The Mirage was interested in a Bowe promotion and that Caesars had sent it a letter last month stating that it had already secured contract with Bowe before any existed. Officials of Caesars World

could not be reached for comment.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 38 Height of DOWN 21 Tic-tac-toe ACROSS

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# CRYPTOQUIP

ATW LRF UTM, FOFBM

ZXBZCGTBN IRS UFGXOFBFU BSCWUN. RXN ATUF Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MICHAEL HAD A SKEL-ETON IN HIS CLOSET, AND HE MAKES NO BONES ABOUT IT.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals C The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one

letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

### FIFA trusts them SYDNEY, Mar 9 Trust in players and the high cost of

testings have influenced world football body FIFA not to drug test competitors in the World Youth Championship, FIFA spokesman Guido Tongoni said here today, reports agencies.

"We don't believe youth players use drugs. It's not a useful way to strengthen the body," said Tognoni. "In soccer you need all of

your faculties and with today's players on the active list for almost 11 of the 12 months in a year, they would burnout if they used drugs."

Anabolic steroids slow a

player, amphetamines cause

loss of control and speed pills diminish stamina in soccer. the doping problem is not a problem. Headed there was also the cost to consider with the need

for a special testing room, a laboratory, special procedures and an error-free programme A report released by FIFA states that the counter-doping efforts of the football authori-

ties were succeeding.

dals - but the inspectors will find it hard to resist Beijing. Hailed as "gods"

decades of the next century China will become the world's largest economy, overtaking inspectors on America. Sometime after that,

> century China will be the world's most formidable sport Its 2000 Olympians are now just toddlers, but they are al-

> right physiques for the right Nothing has been too much trouble for Beiting in its effort to dazzle the 12 Olympic city

> the inspectors could breathe elean air.

China's communist leaders have thrown the destiny of the nation into the laps of the committee which will decide on the host city on September

a struggle for the Games, with Manchester trying gamely to enter the fray. With its sun and surf, its

sports-crazy population and first world facilities, Australia would seem to have it all.

Supplicants await gods' nod Melbourne thought it had done enough to get the 1996 Games, then saw them Sometime in the first few snatched away by Atlanta in the

> its economy will grow bigger than all the other countries of the industrial world combined Perhaps by the end of this

ready in hard training on "athletics farms," where their bones are X-rayed and their muscles tested to select the

selection inspectors on a tour of possible sites. Factory canteens have been serving cold food for days and city residents have developed coughs and sniffles - just so

Soft coal cakes used for cooking and to warm draughty homes send up plumes of sulphurous smog, so orders went out to extinguish all fires. For the first time in recent memory Beijing had blue skies in

"We regard the Interna tional Olympic Committee as god, and what it says is a command to us," Beijing's Communist Party head Chen Xitong said before the team Swallowing their pride,

23 during a meeting in Monte Conventional wisdom has Beijing and Sydney locked into