

Louganis, Otto in Hall of Fame

FORT LAUDERDALE, May 8: Diving champion Greg Louganis, butterfly record-holder Mary T Meagher, six-time Olympic gold medalist Kristin Otto and distance standout Vladimir Salnikov were among 10



GREG LOUGANIS

athletes and coaches inducted Friday into the International Swimming Hall of Fame, reports AP.

Louganis was the world's top diver in the 1980s, sweeping platform and springboard titles in the 1984 and 1988 Olympics. Since retiring five years ago, Louganis, 33, has been involved in training, breeding and showing dogs and has also done some expert

commentary for TV diving coverage.

"I'm in a different arena now. It's out of the public eye and quiet. I kind of like it," said Louganis, who is reluctant to discuss his athletic achievement.

"I had a job to do and I went out to do it," Louganis said. "Why relive it? It's history."

Meagher set the two longest-standing records in swimming in 1981, 57.93 seconds in the 100-meter butterfly and 2:05.96 for 200 meters, marks that haven't been seriously challenged since. She won three gold medals in the 1984 Olympics and added a bronze in the 200 butterfly in 1988.

Otto won the 50- and 100-meter freestyle, the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly in the 1988 Olympics as well as swimming legs for the East German freestyle and medley relay teams. Her six golds established an Olympic record for a woman swimmer.

Salnikov made history in the 1980 Olympics when he became the first to swim 1,500 meters in less than 15 minutes. He did it three more times, including a 14:54.72 clocking in 1983 that stood for eight years. At one time, he held world records for 400, 800 and 1,500 meters.

He came out of retirement to win the 1,500 in the 1988 Olympics.

Also named to the hall of fame were Traci Ruiz, winner of two golds in synchronized swimming in the 1984 Olympics; Alexei Barkalov, double Olympic gold medalist for the Soviet water polo team; 1984 Olympic backstroke gold medalist Rick Carey; three-time water polo Olympic



KRISTIN OTTO

medalist Tamás Farkó of Hungary; Jiro Nagazawa of Japan, both as world-record butterfly swimmer for Japan and as a coach, and former Canadian coach Cecil Colwin.

Former Massachusetts senator Paul Tasongas, a swimmer at Dartmouth in 1962, received the Gold Medallion Award for contributions in government and lifelong involvement in swimming.

Japan on course

AL-AIN, United Arab Emirates, May 8: Japan kept their World Cup ambitions firmly on course, qualifying for the next round by holding the United Arab Emirates 1-1 here on Friday, reports AFP.

Winners of Group F, Japan looked the more likely side to score in an uneventful first half.

The Emirates, needing to win at least 6-0 to have any chance of qualifying, seemed to wake up in the second, roared on by their enthusiastic 17,000 fans.

But Japan soaked up continuous pressure until the 80th minute, when they gave away a clear penalty. Syrian referee Jamal Cherif pointing immediately to the spot.

Abderrazak Ibrahim, however, blasted the ball against the bar but he made up for that blunder almost immediately.

A solo run and shot three minutes later put his side 1-0 up but Japan Equalised almost immediately. Tanaburi blasting home from 20 metres.

Hand of God

BEIRUT, May 8: Furious Bahrain protests about Wai Lun Aus goal in the opening World Cup match here on Friday were swept aside by the Hong Kong match-winner, reports AFP.

"It came off the top of my arm, there was nothing I could do about it", said the 21-year-old Hong Kong striker of the controversial mid-air ball he won before moving on to stroke the ball home.

The British colony's 2-1 win over Bahrain gave them hope of a respectable finish in the Asian Group D — even if they cannot hope to beat South Korea.

Kam Wa Cheung headed Hong Kong ahead in the 21st minute from a cross by Sit Wai Tam. Bahrain looked capable of getting back into the game and got their chance in the 30th minute. Bahrain forward, Khamis Eid Thani escaped his marker and was bodychecked by Hong Kong goalkeeper Hing Wing Chang.

But Fayadh Mahmoud Mohamed blasted the penalty more than six feet wide to give Chang an incredible let-off. That luck did not last though. Mohamed's fellow defender Juma Helal Marzooq headed the equaliser just before half-time.

Hong Kong's second break came with Wai Lun Aus goal which he finished brilliantly after winning the disputed mid-air ball.

The Bahrain team surrounded Moroccan referee Baris Mohamed who stood firm. Bahrain coach Sebastien Pereira said: "Their striker handled the ball and the goal should never have been allowed."

Hong Kong held on for a win despite a few scares as the match headed for a chaotic finish. Bahrain goalkeeper Mohammed Yousuf was stretched off as was Samir Mohammed Mubarak, who then walked back on the pitch a few minutes later.

I thought we could beat them, said Hong Kong coach Chang Hung Ping.

"We beat Kuwait in two matches before coming here and they told us we were as good as Bahrain", said Chang.

"Lebanon and India are unknown quantities but I don't think we stand a chance against the Koreans".

Stich lashes out erratic Lendl

HAMBURG, Germany, May 8: Michael Stich kept his dream of a third German Open final alive by battering Ivan Lendl to a 6-3, 6-2 defeat in only 72 minutes here on Friday, reports AFP.

Lendl, the third seed, had begun the day by finishing off South African Marcos Ondruska.

Leading 5-3 overnight in the final set, he duly completed a 2-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory to reach the quarter-finals.

But Stich soon had him flinging his racket on to the ground in disgust during a performance full of errors.

The German had lost all of the six previous meetings between the pair, the most recent in the Munich final last week.

But the sixth seed exploited his powerful serve and volley game to oust a frustrated Lendl and reach the semi-finals.

Stich will now play Emilio Sanchez in his semi-final, with Bernd Karabacher of Germany facing Russia's Andre Chesnokov in the other.

Lebanon let India steal a draw

BEIRUT, May 8: Lebanon's off-target strikers were left to take the blame for their country's failure to beat India in their return to international football here on Friday, reports AFP.

Lebanon let India steal a 2-2 draw — through two second-half Tajinder Kumar goals — in their Asian zone World Cup qualifying match.

National disappointment at the failure to win a match meant to signal Lebanon's return to international sport after the civil war was summed up by coach Adnan Mekdache.

"India were only in the game for 10 minutes and they managed to score twice," he said.

Mekdache singled out cen-

tre-forward Wael Nazha for criticism. "He should have had four goals," moaned the coach. "We will never live this down."

India suffered in tense pressure throughout the Group D match and were lucky not to lose by six goals or more.

Lebanon were playing in front of a 12,000 crowd, most of whom had not seen competitive international football since 1972.

Most were also becoming anxious for a goal when Babkin Melikian headed in from a corner for Lebanon's first in the 37th minute. Jamal Taha half-volleyed the second with the ball bobbling around the Indian penalty area in the 55th minute.

In between Lebanon dominated the match. Nazha hit a post with one shot and others

went narrowly wide.

India struck back in the 68th minute when the ball came off the Lebanese crossbar from a free kick for Kumar to hit the ball into the net.

Nazha then had a shot that Indian goalkeeper Mohammed Yousuf just tipped over the bar in a new period of Lebanese pressure.

Kumar, though, struck again in the 82nd minute with a gift shot that taught Lebanon a tough lesson in the standards they will have to reach just to become a force in Asia.

The game was Lebanon's first in competitive international football since playing Iraq in a World Cup qualifier in 1972.

There has been no international sport in the country since the end of the civil war in 1990.

Sweeney glad to be back on bus

TORONTO, May 8: Mike Sweeney doesn't always know what part of the world Canada's national soccer team will head for next, but he loves being back on the bus, reports AP.

Next stop: Toronto's Varsity Stadium on Sunday for World Cup qualifying match against Mexico.

If Canada pulls off the upset, it's in the 1994 World Cup tournament, to be played in the United States. If it loses, it would have to travel a last-chance route that would take it to Australia or New Zealand then to South America.

Sweeney, 33, originally from Squamish, British Columbia, lives in Cleveland, Ohio, where he settled when his pro playing career ended there in 1989. In 1988, the scrappy defender played for the Toronto Blizzard in the Canadian Soccer League. He currently coaches soccer at Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University.

How did Sweeney — 145 pounds (65 kilos) on a wiry five-foot-seven (1.7 meter) frame and hidden on a little-known US campus — wind up

on coach Bob Lenarduzzi's 1993 Canadian roster?

"I had played for about 10 years for the national team and I played a couple of years with Bobby on a club team," explains Sweeney. After losing in a 1990 World Cup qualifying round, "I basically felt that was a last-chance kind of thing, shook hands with everybody and said goodbye."

"But when Bobby got the opportunity to coach this team, he gave me a call and said, 'Do want to come up and give it a shot?'"

That he did. And he landed a roster spot because Lenarduzzi was looking for a handful of players with experience and leadership qualities the younger players did not possess.

Sweeney has represented Canada in more than 50 international matches.

Canada was crushed 4-0 in Mexico City on April 25 in the away half of its home-and-

home set with the Mexicans. But the Canadians stand a better chance this time.

Not only will they not have to contend with the heat, pollution and altitude of Mexico City, but the Mexicans will be without Luis Garcia, the striker who is his team's leading scorer, and ace midfielder Garcia Aspe. Both must sit out due to infractions in previous games.

Mexican coach Mejia Baron won't be allowed on the bench either. He was suspended for harassing a referee in a recent match.

Canada played its first World Cup qualifying game in 1957. It has only qualified once — for the 1986 tournament.

"This is the biggest soccer game we've played as a country for a long, long time," says Lenarduzzi. "We'll enjoy Sunday because who knows when we'll get this opportunity again."



CREATING A WORLD OF THEIR OWN: Abahani footballer Monem Munna shares a moment with his wife in the gallery during the Green Delta First Division hockey league match between Abahani and Bangladesh Railway at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Abahani only recently decided to lift the ban on their key defender Munna.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

ROK will have to do without Cha

BEIRUT, May 8: South Korea start their first World Cup qualifying match on Sunday without goalkeeper Cha Sang-Kwong, the first victim of the much-criticized Beirut training ground, reports AFP.

Korean coach Kim Ho will rest Cha, who twisted his ankle, and probably bring in Sin Bum-Chul for the Asian Group D game against Bahrain.

"Cha is getting better very quickly but we do not want to take a risk", said Kim. The goalkeeper injured himself on the training ground where players have to avoid holes the size of footballs.

With experience of the last World Cup finals behind them, the South Koreans, one of Asia's strongest sides, will be looking for a big win against the gulf state part-timers.

Pacific Games in next April

BOGOTA, May 8: The first Pacific Games will be held in Colombia in April next year, the organizers announced here yesterday, reports Xinhua.

A total of 11 spots will be included in the Games which will be held from April 9 to 19.



The North Korean women's gymnastics team having fun on the balance beam yesterday, one day before the start of the first East Asian Games in Shanghai. Standing upright at the rear and laughing is medal hopeful Kim Gwang-Suk who won a gold medal at the 1991 World Championships in Germany.

— AFP photo

China's golden girls on a new mission

SHANGHAI, May 8: Four women swimmers, with Olympic gold medals to their names are piloting China's mission to dominate the inaugural East Asian Games and put on a good face in their bid for the 2000 Olympics, reports AFP.

But the 12-sport festival, opening here on Sunday, has lost some of its competitive appeal due to last-minute injuries to world and Olympic champions in gymnastics and judo and clashes with global competitions in athletics and badminton.

As in the Beijing Asian Games in 1990 and the Barcelona Olympics last year, China are expected to outshine South Korea and Japan with North Korea hot on the trial of Asia's three dragons in international sport.

Hoping to beat Sydney, Berlin and other capitals of the world in the 2000 Olympic bid, China have fielded all of their four Olympic swimming champions in the mini-Olympics in the politically volatile region. But the Chinese divers, who took three of the four golds at Barcelona, are staying home.

Only Japan's Kyoko Iwasaki, who won the 200-metre breaststroke at Barcelona, is a serious threat to China's monopoly of women's swimming honours here.

China stole half of the 16 men's Asian Games titles and are expected to stand out again.

Yang Wenyi, who won the women's Olympic 50-metre freestyle by clipping her own record, will be joined by 100-metre freestyle winner Zhuang Yong, 100-metre butterfly champion Qian Hong and Lin Li, who took the 200-metre individual medley with a world record time.

Lin is not competing in her favourite 200-metre breaststroke, boosting Iwasaki's chances.

But her coach Tsutomu Hayashi warned against China's depth of swimmers including 1988 Olympic silver medalist Huang Xiaoming and 17-year-old Dai Gyohong who could upstage the 15-year-old Japanese star.

Fromberg shines at Tampa

TAMPA, Florida, May 8: Big-hitting Australian Richard Fromberg spearheaded a series of upset results in which the last-surviving seeds were scattered at the 260,000 dollar men's tournament here Friday, reports AFP.

Fromberg, a 6ft 3in player from Tasmania who celebrated his 23rd birthday last week, found himself playing two matches within a few hours as organisers made up schedule delays.

But it did not blunt his steady baseline accuracy or his remarkable stamina. First he ended the hopes of fifth-seeded Richey Reneberg 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, and he then stopped another American, third-seeded David Wheaton, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Wheaton, like Fromberg, had been in action earlier in the day beating former French Open finalist Mikael Pernfors of Sweden 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-1.

Serve lets Navratilova down

ROME, May 8: Sabatini, one of Rome's favourite players. The third seeded Sabatini dominated from start to finish in a virtual tennis lesson for the player ranked 329 in the world. At one point, the Argentine returned a lob for a winner by hitting it between her legs with her back to the net.

Spain's Conchita Martinez ousted Navratilova in two quick sets, 6-1, 6-4.

Martinez, No. 6 seed, will meet Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States, who defeated Anke Huber in three sets.

Martinez played steady tennis. She kept up the pressure throughout the one-hour match on Navratilova, who was playing her first tournament in 10 weeks because of an ankle injury.

Navratilova's usually strong serve let her down, and Martinez broke her six times. The American saved one

match point, but Martinez went out on the next with a backhand winner.

The match was played on a side court under the lights after rain halted all play at the Foro Italico for four hours.

The four seeded Fernandez survived a match point and clinched her hard-hitting German opponent, the No. 8 seed, 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5).

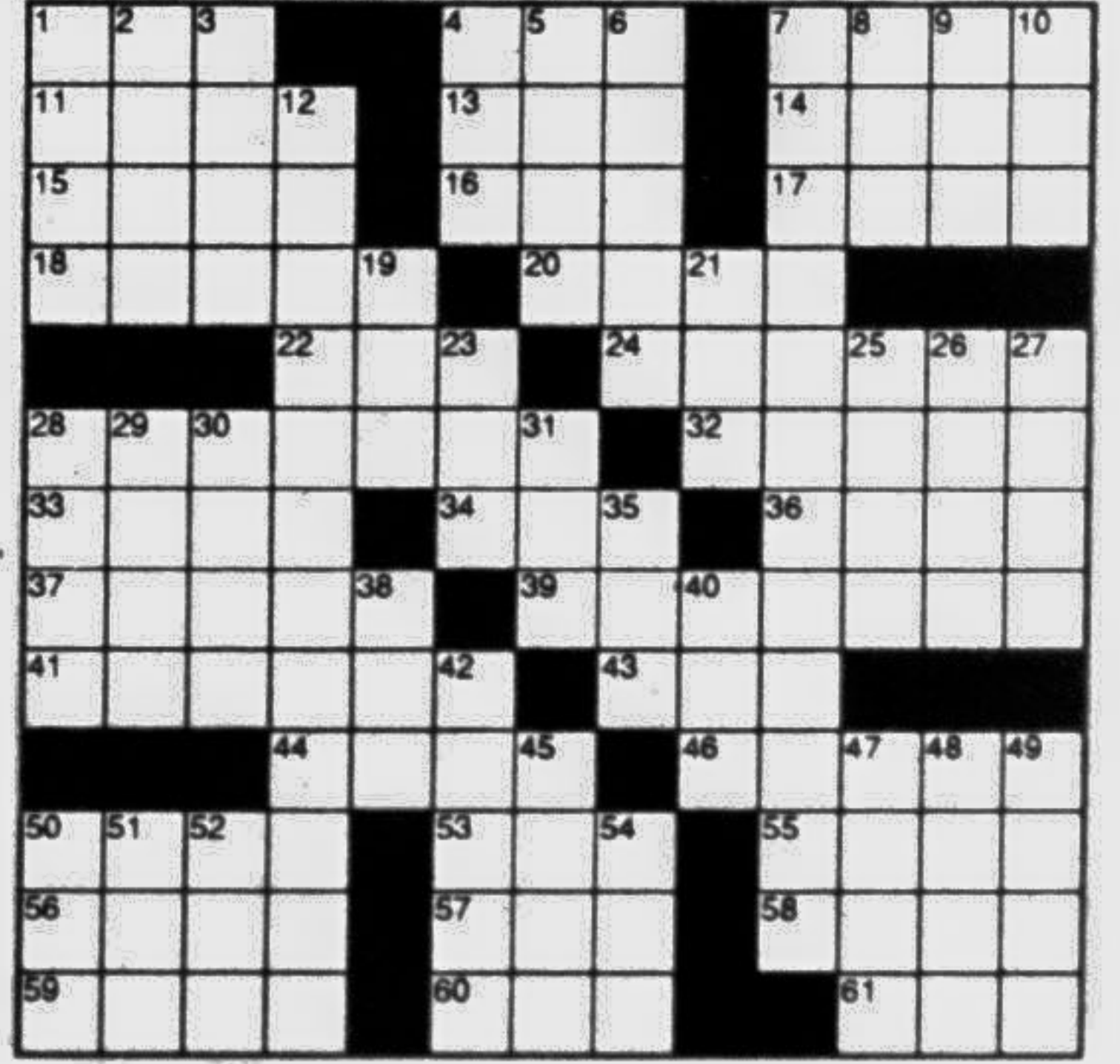
Fernandez had led 6-4, 4-4 when play was halted in the 4th 750,000 clay court classic.

After dropping the second set, Fernandez rushed out to a 4-0 lead, but then struggled. Huber climbed to 6-5 and needed one point to win, but netted to forehead to allow Fernandez back into the match.

Fernandez said bad bounces on the damp clay and a lot of balls hit on the line made it a difficult match for both women.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Min. unit
 - 4 Hall of Fame's Mel
 - 7 "Rio —" (John Wayne movie)
 - 11 Nepal nappy
 - 13 Author Rosten
 - 14 Scene of temptation
 - 15 Josip Broz
 - 16 Dumbo's wing?
 - 17 An edible starch
 - 18 She created Simon Legree
 - 20 Marx or Maiden
 - 22 Circle segment
 - 24 Lifts with pulleys
 - 28 What opposites do
 - 32 Transfer design
 - 33 Heavy metal
 - 34 Male swan
 - 36 Pueblo Indian
 - 37 Strong, virile man
 - 39 Jostled rudely
 - 41 Shrewd
- DOWN**
- 2 Time in reverse?
 - 3 Stoic philosopher
 - 4 Corrida cheer
 - 5 Durable wood
 - 6 The Penta-teuch
 - 7 He was "The Scarlet Pimpernel"
 - 8 Harem room
 - 9 Supplicate
 - 10 Lennon's lady
 - 12 Builder of the "Spruce Goose"
 - 19 Pitching
 - 21 Angler's need
 - 23 New Deal org.
 - 25 Coal transport
 - 26 It might be red
 - 27 Glided smoothly
 - 28 — mater
 - 29 Afternoon parties
 - 30 Diplomat's need
 - 31 Water tester?
 - 35 Peripatetic Nelly
 - 38 Sioux Indian
 - 40 Make a wager
 - 42 Atelier adjunct
 - 45 Prima donna
 - 47 Relief org
 - 48 Privy to
 - 49 Items of secret information
 - 50 Health resort
 - 51 Solo, of "Star Wars"
 - 52 Pianist
 - 54 Actor Daniel — Lewis



CRYPTOQUIP

YIEYJEIWGSH WUZ FZTWU
RV WUZ RYZIS GO
ORPZWUGSH GFRJAW
G YIS VIWURP

Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE SECRETIVE NEW GARDENER'S SAGE ADVICE TO US: "MUM'S THE WORD."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y 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.