



Around 11 Shanghai college students perform a welcoming dance at the Shanghai Airport following the arrival of International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch yesterday. Samaranch is in China to attend the opening ceremony of the first East Asian Games. —AFP photo

China's bid to please IOC chief

BEIJING, May 9: Sparring no effort in its bid for the 2000 Olympic Games, China put out the red carpet Sunday for the president of the International Olympic Committee, reports AP.

First East Asian Games on

SHANGHAI, May 9: A deafening crescendo of fireworks wrapped up a stunning 20-minute pyrotechnic display at the opening ceremony of the inaugural East Asian Games here Sunday, reports AFP.

hundreds of dancers in futuristic white, grey and red costumes representing the mountains of China. They were followed by herds of gold-and-red-clad men and women, symbolising the people, who danced around a raised stage supporting four characters from Chinese mythology.

A Chinese air force operation earlier in the day to disperse threatening grey clouds with chemicals apparently bore fruit as the sky above the stadium remained clear throughout.

ROK hope to bag first gold

SHANGHAI, May 9: South Korea may settle for a distant second spot behind the proud hosts China at the inaugural East Asian Games but they are vying to win the first gold medal, reports AFP.

Smith outpaces Mitchell

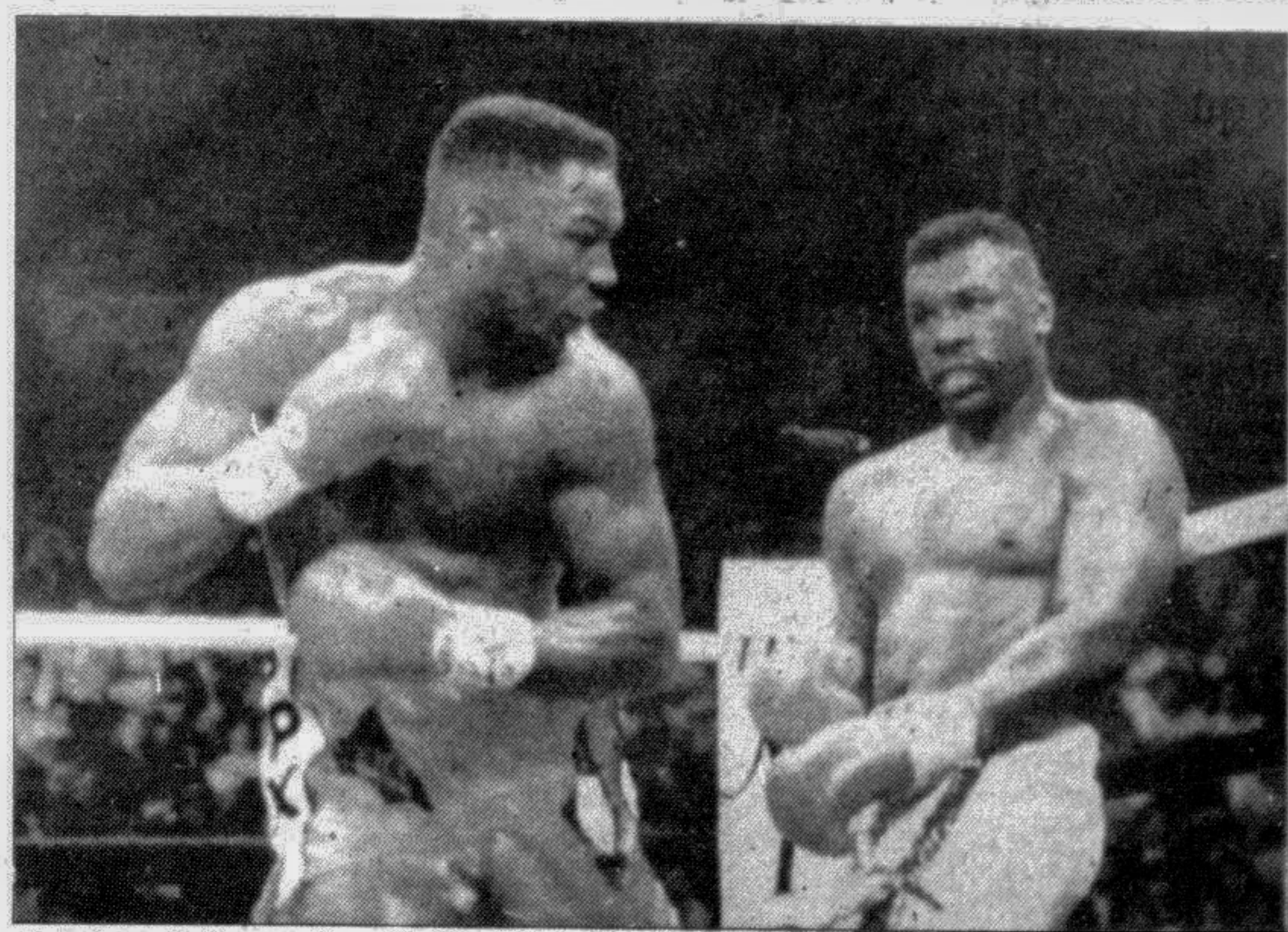
MITO, Japan, May 9: Former world record holder Calvin Smith turned the tables on fellow American Dennis Mitchell, edging him by 0.01 second Sunday in the men's 100 metres at the Mito International Track and Field Meet, reports AP.

Lennox Lewis beats Tony Tucker

LAS VEGAS, May 9: Lennox Lewis, recognized by some as the first British heavyweight champion of this century, got his first championship victory in his first defence, reports AP.

Bruno far from impressed

LONDON, May 9: Frank Bruno, who stayed home and watched on television as Lennox Lewis defended his WBC heavyweight title, was unimpressed with his fellow countryman as the boogie fans in the Las Vegas arena, reports AP.



American challenger Tony Tucker (R) appears to have dropped his guard as he backs away from a series of punches delivered by World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis of Great Britain during the fifth round of their title bout in Las Vegas on May 8. Lewis retained his crown with a unanimous points decision. —AFP photo

Conver may get the honour

CONVERS, Ga., May 9: Olympic officials said Saturday they expect to sign a contract Monday to hold equestrian competition near here during the 1996 Games, reports AP.

S Korea forced to a draw

BEIRUT, May 9: Asian favourites South Korea were held 0-0 by Bahrain in their opening World Cup qualifying match here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Gullit to stay with AC Milan

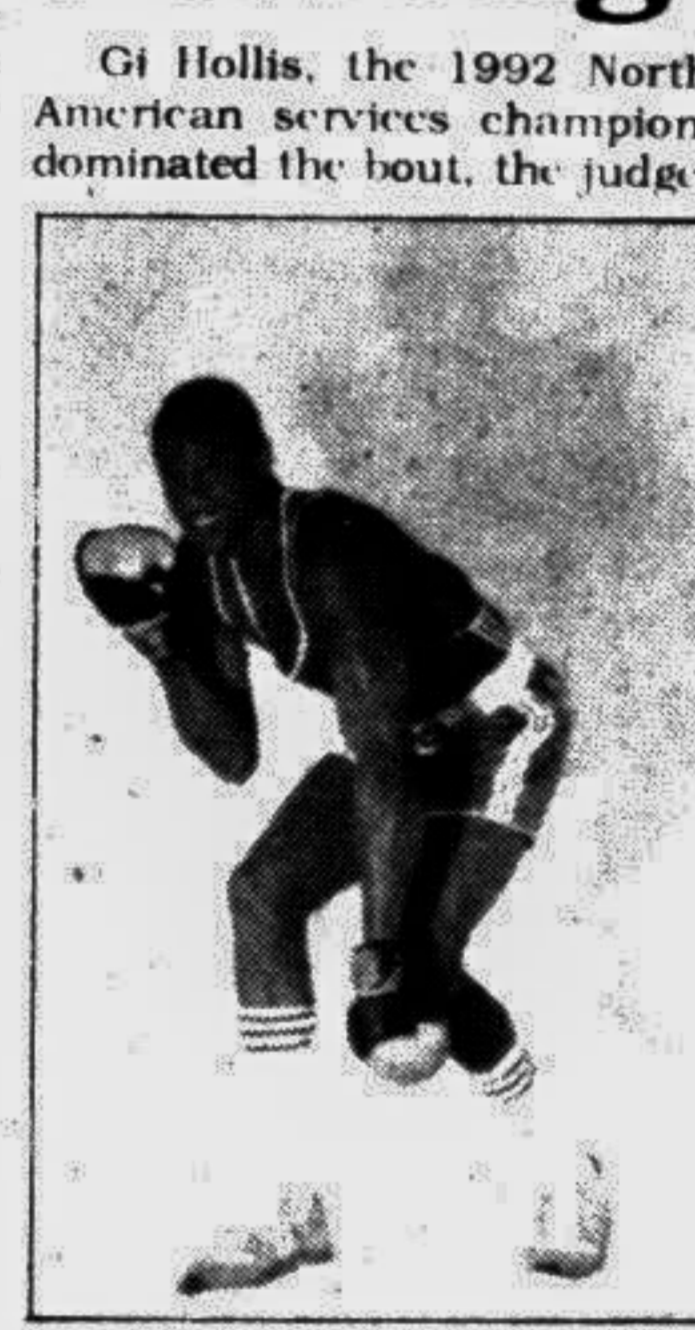
MILAN, Italy, May 9: Dutch star Ruud Gullit is set to stay with Italian champions AC Milan for a seventh season, reports AP.

Rudolph is no stranger

TAMPERE, Finland, May 9: Germany's Marco Rudolph beat Canada's Mike Strange to stay on course to retain his light heavyweight title at the World Amateur Boxing Championships here on Sunday, reports AP.

Savon too strong for Dixon

TAMPERE, Finland, May 9: Cuban Felix Savon scored the first knock-out of the World Amateur Championships when he dropped American Derrel Dixon in the third round of their heavyweight bout here on Saturday, reports AP.



FELIX SAVON scoring the fight 11-2. Cuban welterweight Juan Hernandez put on a fine display against Scotsman Alan Wolecki, who didn't even wait for the final referee verdict.

Another welterweight, German Otto Andreas, won a less emphatic victory against Irishman Neil Gough, the judges scoring the fight six to four.

Bahrain, beaten 2-1 by Hong Kong on Friday, had several chances to steal a shock victory.

American Fernando Clavijo blocks a shot on goal by Colombian John Trellez during the first half of the World Series of soccer match in Miami, Florida on Saturday. Colombia defeated US 2-1. —AFP photo

Rudolph, champion in Sydney in 1991 and the Olympic silver medalist in 1992, put on a fine show of attacking flair progress to the quarter-finals.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle with a grid and a message: "Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CALCULATING THE DEPTH OF THE OCEAN IS SOMETHING I DOUBT I CAN FATHOM."