

Taiwan steal hosts' thunder

SHANGHAI, May 15: Chinese Taipei snatched two most valuable gold medals at the track and field tournament of the East Asian Games here on Saturday, reports Xinhua.

But China still won the lion's share of the gold medals.

On the third day of the athletics competition, Nai Hwei Fang of the Chinese Taipei pulled off the shock of the day when he flew 8.34 metres in his fourth attempt, beating Asian record holder Chen Zunrong to finish first in the long jump.

His results is only two centimetres shorter than Asian record, enhancing his personal best by 21 centimetres.

His distance is 41 centimetres longer than that of the silver medalist Nobuharu Asahara, from Japan. And China's Zhou Ming finished the third with 7.84 metres.

Chen Zunrong could only finish fourth without a medal.

"The jump ended my bottleneck area, it's a breakthrough," said Nai who just returned from training in the United States.

"His result is an encouragement to all athletes in Taiwan," said a Chinese Taipei track and field team leader.

Wang Hwei Chen, Asian record holder, made herself a double sprint winner when she won the women's 200-metres dash in 23.47 seconds.

Chen Zhaojing and Han Qing from China dashed 23.67 and 23.76 seconds to win the silver and bronze.

China took the titles of seven events in today's competition, increasing its gold account to 20.

Today's first gold medal was won by China's Chen Shaoguo in men's 20,000 metres walk in one hour 21 minutes 29.1 seconds. Li Mingcai, China's Asian record holder, clocked 1:22:18.4 to finish second. "A chain of competitions makes me tired," Li said.

The bronze winner Tsutomu Takushima from Japan said the two Chinese medalists stimulated him to rewrite Japanese national record with a timing of 1:22:40.2.

Chinese hammer thrower Bi Zhong covered 74.60 metres for gold medal. The Asian record holder was followed by Japanese Akiyoshi Ikeda and Koji Murofushi with 67.62 and 66.78 metres.

China's Zhang Yu, who claimed herself "not in good form," dashed fastest in the women's 100 metres hurdles timing 13.23 seconds followed by teammate Feng Yinghua 0.08 seconds later.

The bronze medal winner, Hong Kong's Chan Sau Ying who has had a three-year training in the United States, won for her team the first medal in the track and field events in

13.35 seconds.

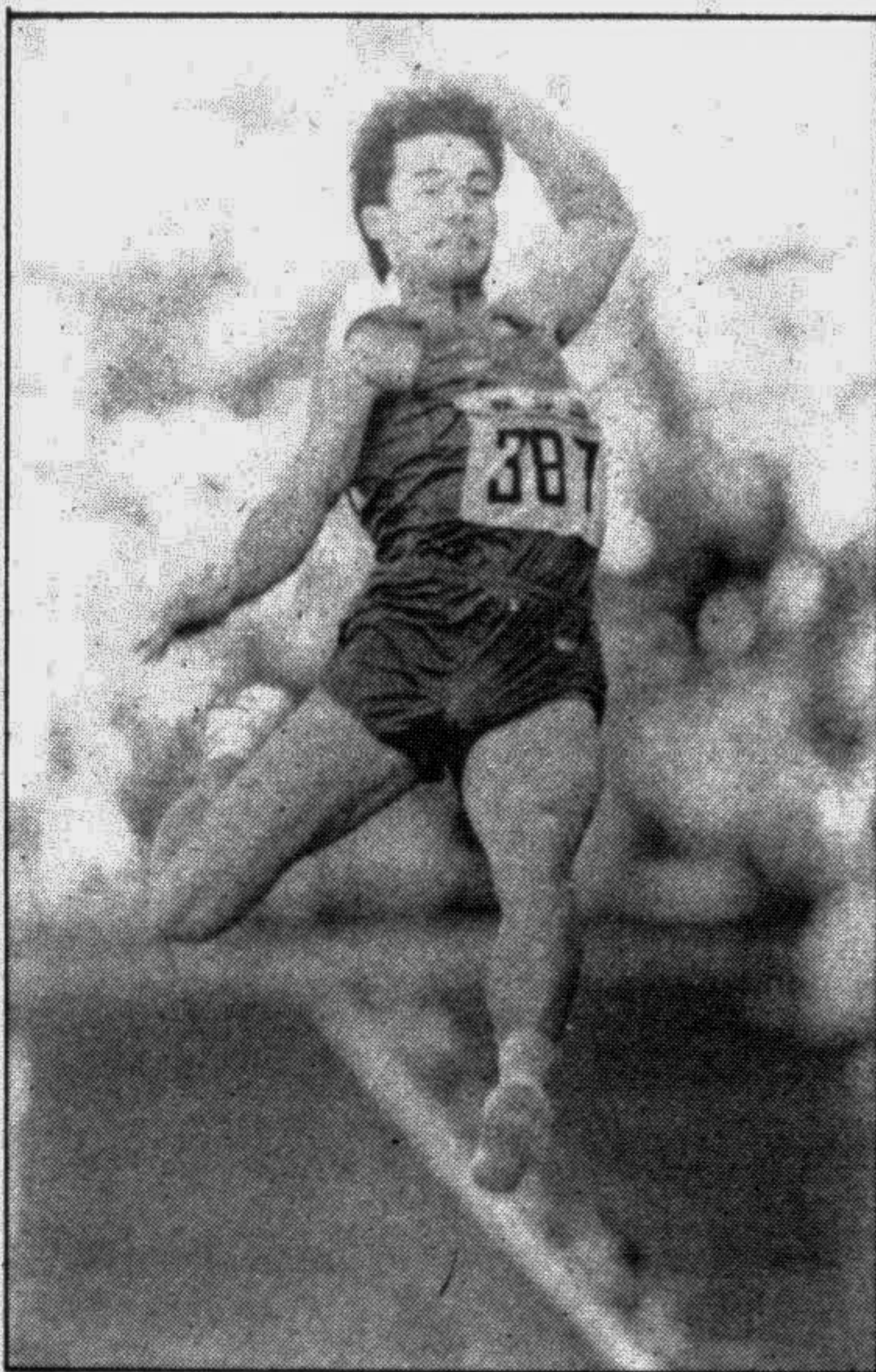
"I'm not surprised. I thought of it four years ago," said the 4th place winner in 1991 Beijing Asian Games.

Chinese Zhang Yumei and Lu Yi finished 1-2 in the women's 800m with 2:01.68 and 2:03.38. Choi OK Son from

for South Korea in the men's 800m, with Lee Jm Il taking the gold in 1:47.13 and Kim Yong Hwan second at 1:48.75.

"I'd like to send the news first to my grand-mother who has prayed for my victory all the days," the champion said.

Chinese Han Bo won the



Chinese Taipei's Nai Hwei in action during the men's long jump event at the East Asian Games in Shanghai yesterday. Nai recorded a jump of 8.36 metres. — AFP photo

the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, timing 2:08.03, was third.

China's Zhang Weimin and Jiang Limei clocked 56.21 and 56.96 seconds to clinch the gold and silver in the men's 400m hurdles. Chinese Taipei's Hsu Pei Chin dashed 59.08 seconds for the bronze.

Ha Xiaoyan of China threw her javelin to a victorious distance of 64.52 metres. Lee Young Sun from South Korea won the silver with 61.44 metres and Zhao Yuhong from China took the bronze with 60.12 metres.

Zhao Cunlin from China was timed at 20.99 seconds for the gold. Koji Ono and Koji Ito, both from Japan, finished second and third.

There was a one-two finish

third place clocking 1:48.80.

In men's 400m hurdles, Japanese Shunji Karube won title with 49.93 seconds, followed by Gao Yonghong and Du Yuechun from China with 50.84 and 52.03 seconds.

MEDALS TABLE

Medals table at the end of the fifth day of competition at the East Asian Games here Friday:

	G	S	B	T	
China	49	40	14		
Japan	103	15	18	33	66
S Korea	12	12	18	42	
N Korea	5	7	9	21	
Chinese Taipei	4	5	7	16	
Hong Kong	—	—	3	3	
Mongolia	—	—	3	3	
Guam	—	—	—	—	
Macau	—	—	—	—	

He calls himself James Bond

ROME, May 15: A German man was arrested inside the grounds of the Italian Open tennis tournament on Friday after being found carrying a small bag with a pistol and knives inside, the Italian news agency ANSA reported, reports Reuter.

The man, named as Herbert Uebele, 46, was said to have front-row tickets for Friday and Saturday's play on the Foro Italico centre court.

The pistol reportedly carried three blank cartridges.

Police stopped the man after noticing his eccentric clothing. When asked who he was, the man replied James Bond.

Police then searched his bag where they found the knives, pistol, tickets, an electric tool and a wig.

A search of his hotel room later turned up a second wig and photographs of top players Gabriela Sabatini and Boris Becker, ANSA said.

The scare comes two weeks after women's number one player Monica Seles was stabbed in the back by a German spectator during a tournament in Hamburg.

She is expected to be out of the game for up to three months.

Ocean diving

SHANGHAI, May 15: While Beijing hopes the inaugural East Asian Games in Shanghai will help its bid for the 2000 Olympics, Shanghai's youth hope it will boost their latest risky sport, "ocean diving"—the plunge into a new market economy, reports AFP.

"Shanghai has a very special, unique reputation in the world," Li Qian, public relations director at the 29-month-old Shanghai securities exchange said. "After the Games, it will be enhanced."

The rest of the world will identify China with open and fast-developing Shanghai, she added.

After teaching basic English at a college for seven years, Li last year joined the swelling ranks of former officials and factory and farm workers who have taken the plunge into the high seas of commercial and financial ventures.

Such a professional sea-change, called "Xia Hai (ocean diving)," is becoming increasingly popular in China, as the world's most populous nation forces its way towards paramount leader Deng Xiaoping's much-touted "socialist market economy."

"It was not because of money. I wanted a change of environment," Li said. "It is quite exciting. Some day, I will be a securities specialist."

The eastern port city of Shanghai, once again a cradle of entrepreneurship, raised 310 million yuan (55 million dollars), mostly from commercial enterprises, for the East Asian Games, its first international multi-sport festival. Money left over is expected to go towards building a 80,000-seat stadium.

Despite the persistent international outcry against China's human rights record, the Beijing government hopes it has healed the scars of its 1989 military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters.

After hosting the Asian Games in 1990, Beijing is going overboard to use its smaller sporting congregation of nine countries and territories, including Hong Kong, Japan, the Koreans, Mongolia, and "Chinese Taipei" (Taiwan), as promotional stunt.

Samaranch praises Sydney's bid

SYDNEY, May 15: IOC Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch praised Saturday bid by Sydney to host the 2,000 Olympics as being environmentally-friendly, reports AP.

Speaking during an inspection tour of sports facilities under construction at a proposed Games site, Samaranch also described the bid as "the real beginning to a new era for sports in Sydney" because it combined the needs for top competitors as well as ordinary people.

The site, now known as Sydney Olympic Park, was once home to a huge meatworks and industrial area on the derelict upper reaches of Sydney Harbour.

Its redevelopment has been approved by several environmental groups, including Greenpeace, after plans included the preservation of existing vegetation and the use of environmentally-sensitive construction and design techniques.

Organizers of the Sydney bid say the plan incorporates facilities which will be used by people living in the surrounding area day-to-day.

Samaranch, who is midway through a three-day inspection tour of Sydney's bid, said the Australian Olympic Committee is one of the 184 national member bodies within the IOC to sign an agreement supporting the preservation of nature.

Graf stays well on course

BERLIN, May 15: Steffi Graf kept on course to retain her German Open title with a superb display of attacking tennis to beat Magdalena Maleeva 6-2, 6-3 and move into the semifinals on Friday, reports AFP.

Second seed Gabriela Sabatini overcame Anke Huber 7-6 (7-2), 6-1, while Brenda Schultz failed to follow up her win over Jennifer Capriati when she went down 6-1, 6-0 to 5th seed Conchita Martinez of Spain.

Third seed Mary Joe Fernandez defeated France's Nathalie Tauziat 6-2, 6-3.

Graf was in great form as she faced the youngest of the Bulgarian sisters. Constantly in motion, she served well and struck her forehead with great depth and accuracy.

Her weight of shot allowed her to dictate the points, often forcing errors from her opponent. But the rallies were played at a furious pace and the match was competitive throughout.

"From the beginning I went for my shots and they worked. She didn't play that badly but I dominated the points," said Graf. "My main strength now is my serve. I can convert a lot of point with that right now."

Graf readily praised Maleeva, who has recently risen to 10 in the world.

"She plays tactically very well and deserves to be where she is. There's a lot of room for improvement, but her serve is lot stronger now and she can mix up her game. She's got lots of shots."

Maleeva was still able to raise a smile after her defeat, knowing she had put up a good performance.

"She started well but I played a good match. Don't worry there is time. I will beat her," the 18-year-old vowed.

Seventh seeded Anke Huber made a good start against Sabatini, breaking serve in the second game and leading 3-0 but she failed to maintain her momentum.

Both players mixed up

there game well with drop shots, lobs and spirited rallies but Huber made a large number of impatiently unforced errors, especially on the forehand.

Leading 5-3 in the 1st set, she allowed Sabatini back.

"I played a good tiebreak, that was the key after a long first set because I knew that whoever won the 1st set would win the match."

Martinez took just 40 minutes to overwhelm her opponent with Schultz winning only



Argentinian Gabriela Sabatini returns a ball during her quarterfinal match against German Anke Huber at the German Open tennis tournament in Berlin on May 14. Sabatini won by 7-6, 6-1. — AFP photo

played a dreadful tiebreak and after a 64 minute 1st set conceded the second in just 26.

"At the beginning, she didn't miss. She takes risks, that's her game," said Sabatini. "I didn't feel in control of the match but then she started missing and I played deeper and mixed up my game."

15 points. The Dutch woman claimed later she had been exhausted by beating Capriati.

Tauziat also failed to raise much of a challenge against Fernandez. The American broke serve to love to lead 3-2 and against for 5-2.

In the second set Tauziat was broken again for 3-2 and lost the last eight points.

No more ranking points for Seles

ROME, May 15: Monica Seles will receive no ranking points for tournaments she misses as a result of her stabbing in Hamburg two weeks ago. The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Seles was stabbed in the back by a spectator between games in the quarter-finals in Hamburg but the WTA decided to recognise her as joint winner of the tournament and awarded the world number one her ranking average points so she did not lose ground in the standings.

But the WTA said in a statement on Friday the Florida-based Yugoslav would receive no further concessions for the time she spends recuperating, expected to be between one and three months.

"Everyone is sympathetic to Monica's plight and her health and recovery are of primary concern," WTA executive director Gerard-Smith said.

"But the players are united in their belief that Monica has been given adequate and satisfactory ranking consideration."

"The WTA wanted to provide Monica with some ranking protection immediately after the devastating attack. Also we felt it would offer her some additional comfort during her recovery."

Masur ends Pat McEnroe's run

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla, May 15: Wally Masur ended Patrick McEnroe's bid for his first title with a 6-3, 6-2 victory in a quarterfinal match in the America's Red Clay Championship tournament Friday, reports AP.

Masur, the top seed, is hoping to end a two-year title drought of his own. The Australian's last tour victory came at Hong Kong in April 1991.

"I won a tournament at 19 and thought it was easy," said Masur, whose current world ranking of 24th is a career best. "Over the years I've recognized how hard it is to win a tournament."

Masur, who turned 30 on Thursday, will play third-seeded Todd Martin in one of Saturday's semifinals. The hard-serving Martin beat Bryan Shelton 6-3, 6-4.

Second-seeded David Wheaton came from behind to defeat fellow Stanford product Alex O'Brien 4-6, 6-4, 6-0, and will play unseeded Aaron Krickstein in the other semifinal. Krickstein, 25, on the comeback trail after foot surgery last year, rallied past Swedish qualifier Mikael Pernfors 2-6, 6-1, 6-2.

It is Wheaton's first semifinal since Jan 1992. Krickstein, who was ranked sixth in February 1990, is currently 108th, his lowest since 1983.

"Every match I win is a big step for me," said Krickstein, who has lost three first-round matches in his last four tournaments. "I'm not used to losing in the first round. It gets frustrating."

The baseline battle turned after the first set when the more consistent Krickstein reeled off 11 of 12 games. The rout was capped at 3-0 in the third when Krickstein chased down a lob and drilled a between-the-legs winner. It was the first time he had tried that shot in a match.

Gatien leads French fightback

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, May 15: World number two Jean-Philippe Gatien shrugged off an early setback to keep alive French hopes of a place in the men's team quarter-finals at the world table tennis championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

Gatien recovered from losing his opening game to secure two victories in characteristically solid style as France beat Russia 3-1 in their final round-robin match.

France now face a play-off for a berth in the last eight after finishing fourth behind holders Sweden, North Korea and Germany in Group B. The top three teams automatically go into the quarter-finals.

Former champions China, South Korea and Japan qualified directly from Group A, while fourth-placed Belgium gained a play-off spot.

Ichiro Imaeda staged a brilliant comeback against Alan Cooke to guide Japan to a 3-1 win over England which guaranteed they went into the last eight.

Cooke seized the initiative

by taking the opening game 21-17 in the crucial third rubber but the bespectacled Imaeda bounced back to win the second game 21-16 and captured a gripping final game 21-19 to seal his success.

Hiroshi Shibutani wrapped it up for the Japanese when he beat Chen Xinhua 21-18, 21-8 in the final rubber.

China, whose reign as the kings of men's table tennis was ended when Sweden lifted the team title in 1989 and 1991, won all seven round-robin matches.

The Swedes, spurred by Olympic champion Jan-Ove Waldner and world title holder Jorgen Persson, also had a 7-0 winning record to underline their resolve to keep the team crown.

France, knowing the winners of their showdown with Russia would secure the play-off place, made the perfect start by taking a 2-0 lead.

Gatien lost his opening game to Dimitri Mazunov 21-16, but in his unflustered style and with the knack of producing the winning shot at the right moment, the Frenchman fought back to take the rubber with 21-19, 21-17 games.

Christophe Legout accounted for Maxim Shmyrev 21-15, 21-10 before France's third left-hander, Nicolas Chatelain, succumbed to Evgeni Bratinin 21-14, 21-16.

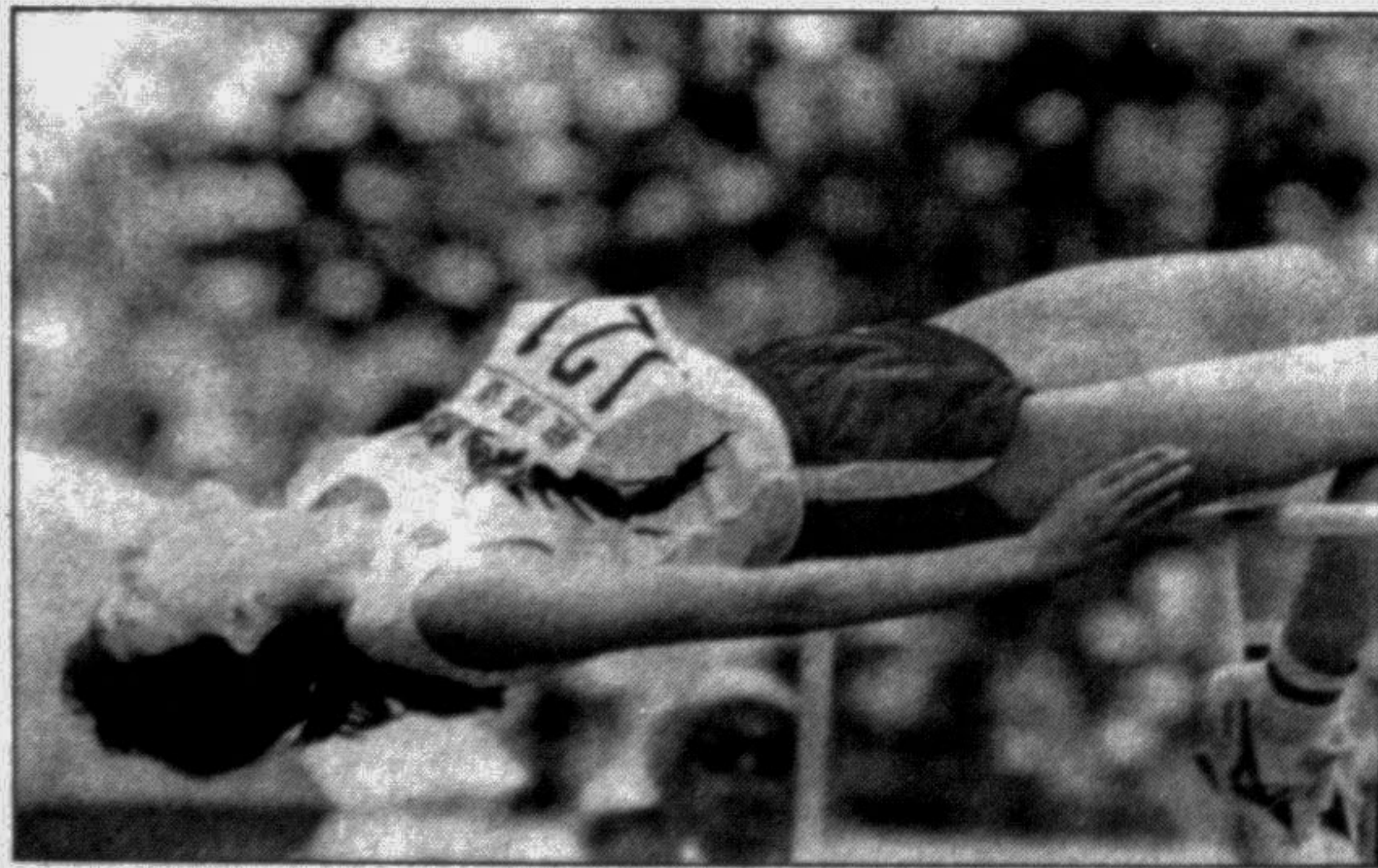
Gatien efficiently put paid to Russian ambitions of extending their comeback by beating Shmyrev 21-15, 21-11. The French world number two trailed 5-1 in the first game but then collected 13 of the next 18 points and his victory was never in doubt.

France's play-off opponents have yet to be decided but if they get through to the quarter-finals, North Korea will be awaiting them.

Sweden will face the winners off a play-off involving France and Belgium. Germany meet South Korea, and the quarter-final draw is completed by a clash between China and Japan.

China's women, seeking to regain the team championship, have a quarter-final meeting with Hungary or Taiwan, while there is an all-Asian confrontation between North Korea and Japan.

Germany play South Korea, and Russia or the Netherlands are drawn against Hong Kong.



China's Wang Wei clears 1.89m to win the women's high jump gold at the East Asian Games in Shanghai on May 14. — AFP photo

Power-hitters reign on clay

ROME, May 15: The power hitters are taking over for the clay-court diggers at the Italian Open.

Pete Sampras, Jim Courier and Goran Ivanisevic posted straight-set victories Friday over prototype clay-court specialists to reach the semifinals, reports AP.

The other semifinal berth was filled by Michael Chang, who saved two match points in the third set and defeated Andrei Chesnokov 6-8, 5-7, 7-5 in a marathon lasting three hours, 38 minutes, and ending just before midnight.

Sampras, the No. 1 seed and world's top-ranked player, crushed Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina 6-0, 6-2 in one hour in a match interrupted twice by rain.

Courier, the defending champion and No. 2 seed, rolled past seventh-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain 6-3, 6-4. Ivanisevic, the No. 4 seed, downed Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay 7-6(7), 6-4.

In Saturday's semifinals,

Sampras will play Ivanisevic and Courier will face Chang. It's the first time in the tournament's 50-year history that three Americans have reached the semifinals.

The Chang-Chesnokov encounter was the longest three-set match of the year and just nine minutes short of the longest five-set match.

The sixth-seeded Chang was down 3-5 in the final set, with two match points against him at 15-40. But the Russian squandered the first chance with a forehand error and Chang erased the second with an overhead.

With Chesnokov serving for the match in the next game, Chang broke serve to even the set at 5-5. Chang held for 6-5 and broke for the match, winning on the third match point when he jumped on a weak second serve and ripped a forehand winner.

Perez-Roldan was a finalist here in 1988, but he never had a chance against Sampras. The American scored repeatedly with his big serve, recording six aces and nine service win-

ners. He also outplayed the Argentine from the baseline, hitting winners from both sides and making 10 fewer unforced errors.

Things are working out, too, for Courier. Playing his first clay-court tournament of the year, he looked right at home as he punished Bruguera with a sharp display of attacking tennis.

Bruguera, who had reached the final of his last three tournaments, could not keep up with Courier's relentless pace. The American teed off freely on his groundstrokes and moved to net frequently on short balls for putaway volleys.

Ivanisevic's main weapon is his serve, which was clocked at up to 114 mph. He recorded only three aces against Filippini, but he won 30 of the 34 points in which he got in his first serve.

But Ivanisevic also showed the patience to win long rallies.

"I have to work a bit more on clay," he said. "I have to run and fight on every point."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Word before burn or poke

5 Health resort

8 EPA's concern

12 Tough, long-staple cotton

13 Dress up: colloq.

14 Reduce costs

15 Arab ruler

16 Dulles and O'Hare

18 Table sauce

20 Monet or Manet

21 Away from the weather

23 Baseball's Mel

24 Ventilation shafts

28 Barks shrilly

31 Wrath

32 Places to store missiles

34 N.Y.C. transit system

35 "Monster" (62

song)

37 Routes for the Concorde

39 "High —"

41 Close a hawk's eyes

42 Investigated thoroughly

45 They were prized during WWII

49 Like some bacteria

51 Bread spread

52 Asian weight unit

53 He opposed DDE

54 Partner of kiss

55 "So what — is new?"

Solution time: 26 min.

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SUITOR AMANDA
INTOTO WINGES
EDEN WEST IST
BAD OARS RIGA
ONEPORTHEROAD
WILL SHOP NYE
AUF ERIC
TAW RENT AWAY
REASON CANINE
ERRAND UPENOS
FIENDS TEDDY

56 "Sure thing!"

57 Realtor's goal

DOWN

1 U.S. Army tech. grade

2 City in Ohio

3 Neglect

4 Concerto subject

5 Cactuslike African plant

6 Luau dish

7 Home of the Taj Mahal

8 Irregular

9 Philosopher

10 Jacques

11 Exploit

17 Duct or gram lead

19 Rubber trees

22 English psychologist

24 Ultimate goal

25 Author Levin

26 Brings back to health

27 Post-bout feeling

29 Before: prefix

30 They cross aces.

33 Weaver's reed

36 Walk haltingly

38 Assigns by share

40 Classic car

42 Party delicacy

43 Coin of Iran

44 Low, sturdy cart

46 Olive genus

47 Dudley Do-Right's sweetheart

48 One and only

50 Society-page word

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CRYPTOQUIP

R A P W T A L N A P D W T H Z L

S W C D U S V T T Q W C L N H Z

L V E U T Q Y D W L H L

E V Z J H Y Y A U H J L N A R C U

Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE FAMOUS BELLDANCER WHO PERFORMED AT THE STAG PARTY WAS OK, BUT NO GREAT SHAKES.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: P equals F

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.