

Curtain falls on East Asian Games

SHANGHAI, May 18: The first East Asian Games closed in Shanghai on Tuesday after 10 days of second-rate sport overshadowed by a propaganda blitz from the host China, reports Reuters.

From the opening spectacular on May 9 through to the final medal, the nine-day meet was a Chinese display of athletic might and organising skills before the September vote on Beijing's bid for the 2,000 Olympics.

The hosts ended with 105 gold medals, almost two-thirds of all the victories on offer.

Japan, China's nearest rival but still far behind, ended with 25 golds, while third-ranked South Korea had 23. North Korea had 10, Taiwan six, and Hong Kong had one. Mongolia made do with one silver and sixteen bronzes, Macau with one bronze and special guest Guam went home empty-handed.

The final gold went home empty-handed.

The final gold went to Yu Zhuocheng of China, who won the men's three-metre springboard diving event with characteristic strength — outscoring second-place Chinese teammate Lisdeliang by 40 points with a final score of 737.60.

South Korea's men's soccer squad won the other major event on Tuesday, securing first place after battling to a 1-1 draw against fierce rivals

North Korea. Coaches from several countries said the quality of competition had been lack lustre, with a number of teams fielding second-rate players while national sporting stars were prepared for more established

of China's best were training for the national games in September.

"Usually, an athlete can reach his peak only once a year."

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International

"Shanghai fully supports Beijing's bid" was one of the many pro-Olympic messages on banners across the city's narrow streets. Organisers said China could pull off an even better show if Beijing got the Olympics.

He Zhenliang, who heads the Beijing bidding team and is president of the Council of East Asian National Olympics Committee, said the East Asian Games had "fully demonstrated the outstanding organisational ability of Shanghai," the Shanghai Star newspaper said on Tuesday.

Organisers from the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, hosts for the next East Asian Games in 1995, were now here to be found, though the Star quoted "sources" as saying the secretive Stalinist state planned to invite 2,500 athletes and officials.

For some of Shanghai's 12 million people, the first games have been a headache of irksome restrictions. City authorities ordered sweeping traffic bans, staggered work hours and arranged a clean-up that gave the city with an uncharacteristic sparkle.

"In other places, international meets are always fun and lively," said one Taiwan businessman working in Shanghai. "Here, they ban cars, order people to stay home and watch the games on television, and generally close everything down."

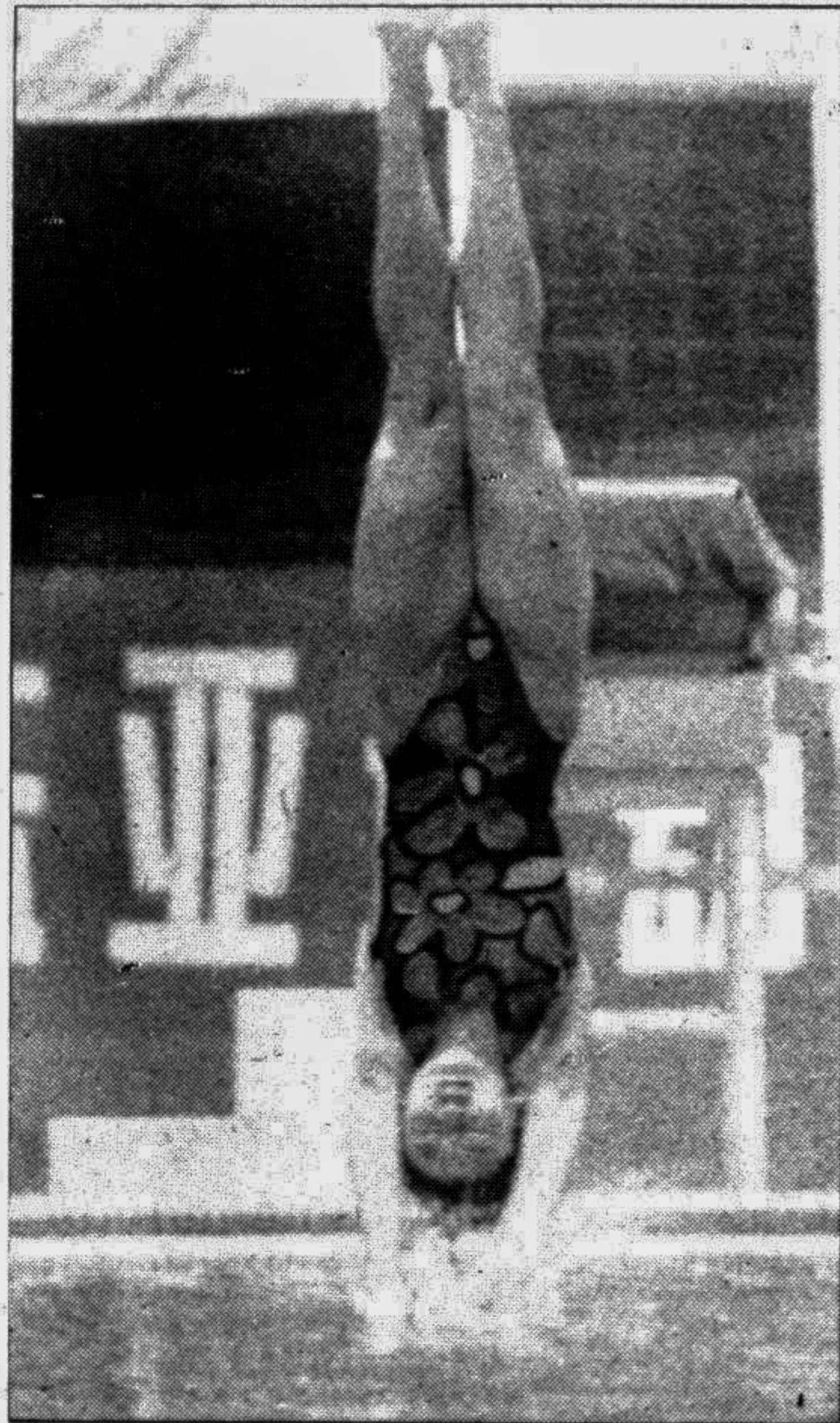
A 32-year-old Shanghai storekeeper was more practical, suggesting that since the city government had ordered that the games be a success, there was little to discuss.

"That's the way they want it. And it makes us all look good."

MEDALS TABLE

Following is the final medals table for the first East Asian Games, which ended in Shanghai on Tuesday.

	G	S	B	T
China	105	74	34	213
Japan	25	37	55	117
South Korea	23	28	40	91
North Korea	10	20	24	54
Chinese-Taipei	6	5	19	30
Hong Kong	1	2	8	11
Mongolia	-	1	16	17
Macau	-	-	1	1
Guam	-	-	-	-
Total	170	167	197	534



China's Rao Lian about to make her dive during the women's one-metre springboard at the first East Asian Games in Shanghai on May 17. Rao won the gold with a total score of 279.50. — AFP photo

meets. "They couldn't be at their top form here," Shang Xutang of the Chinese Athletics Association told local reporters on Monday, noting that many

Olympic Committee, was feted like a head of state when he arrived for the opening ceremony. Officials even built a special luxury toilet in the stadium's VIP section.

Basketball double for hosts

SHANGHAI, May 18: The Chinese men's basketball team held on to snatch gold from South Korea at the East Asian Games here Monday, as the host nation took its gold medal tally beyond the 100 mark, reports AFP.

Asian champions China charged back from a slow start to down South Korea 82-79 after a nail-biting finish in the men's basketball final — adding to their women's victory on Sunday.

China struggled hard to overcome an early deficit against the fast moving South Koreans to lead 40-37 at half-time.

Anglo-Australian Texaco Trophy: A preview

By A M Chowdhury

Oldest rivals in the cricketing world will be measuring each other's strength when the international season opens in the current English summer with three one-day matches for the Texaco Trophy. The first of the three is scheduled for May 19 at Old Trafford, Manchester.

The second will be played at Edgbaston, Birmingham on May 21 while the third on May 23 at Lord's, London.

The two sides are placed at par so far as the record goes; they met each other in one-day matches 52 times, each have won 25 and 2 were drawn including a tie. But on the current running it must be said that England's tail is very much coiled after their blank tours of India and Sri Lanka last winter. In India out of six one-dayers England won the first, third and the fourth, but were denied the honour of winning the Champs Trophy when Muhammad Azharuddin and his men bounced back to win the last two matches.

England's miseries continued in Sri Lanka where they were beaten quite convincingly by the Lankans in both the one-dayers. England lost all the Tests, three in India and one in Sri Lanka. No team could be in a worse frame of mind. Since the World Cup final, England's only success was winning the Texaco Trophy last summer by beating world champions Pakistan 4-1. But Pakistan had the last laugh as they clinched the Test series 2-1.

Australia's recent records are also not flattering either. After a dismal performance in the World Cup on home grounds, they had rather a marginal success in Sri Lanka, where they lost the one-day series 1-2 and won the three Test series 1-0. But in their last home summer in the WSC Triangular Series they reached the finals only to be squarely beaten by the West Indies in two consecutive matches; the third was not needed to be played. West Indies clinched the Test series 2-1 as well.

Towards the end of the southern hemisphere summer, Australia managed to win the one-day series 3-2 with a nail-biting three-run victory over New Zealand in the fifth match, they had to be content with a 1-1 draw in the three-match Test series, though.

England may conjure up 'faint' satisfaction from the thought that they had won the Texaco Trophy in 1989 when Australia last visited their island. I deliberately used the word 'faint', because by the

rules of the competition tied second match was credited to them — the first was won by England and the third by Australia. But the fairest result would have been a drawn series.

At present both the teams have a new look about them, new faces have emerged since selectors on both sides have clearly opted for fresh blood to replace the old guards. Australia have four rookies; and established names like Dean Jones, Tom Moody, Geoff Marsh, Bruce Reid, Greg Matthews and Mike Whitney are missing from the touring squad of 17. Two of the new

83 tell their own story. Allan Border, the highest run-getter in Test cricket (10,262 to be exact) is still the lynch-pin of Australian batting and in limited over matches he can sometimes be the 'murderer' of any bowling. Damien Martin, considered by many as the most exciting Australian batting prospect, is yet to flourish to his potentials. Ian Healy, possessing a safe pair of hands behind the stumps, is an accomplished batsman and it is always a comforting thought for the upper-order batsmen that he is there at No 7.

The Australian line-up appears to be a balanced mixture in limited over matches is a definite point of strength.

In the disastrous Asian tour Robin Smith and Graeme Hick stood out above all and these two are going to be very tough customers for the Aussie attack. Graeme Hick has by now got over the initial 'teething trouble' and can now be considered to be a leading batsman of present-day cricket.

The all-round capability of Chris Lewis, Paul Jarvis and Derek Pringle would add to England's strength. The recall of Derek Pringle, against whose accurate pace bowling quick run getting is difficult, adds to the experience of the team and in English condition he had always proved himself useful in the past.

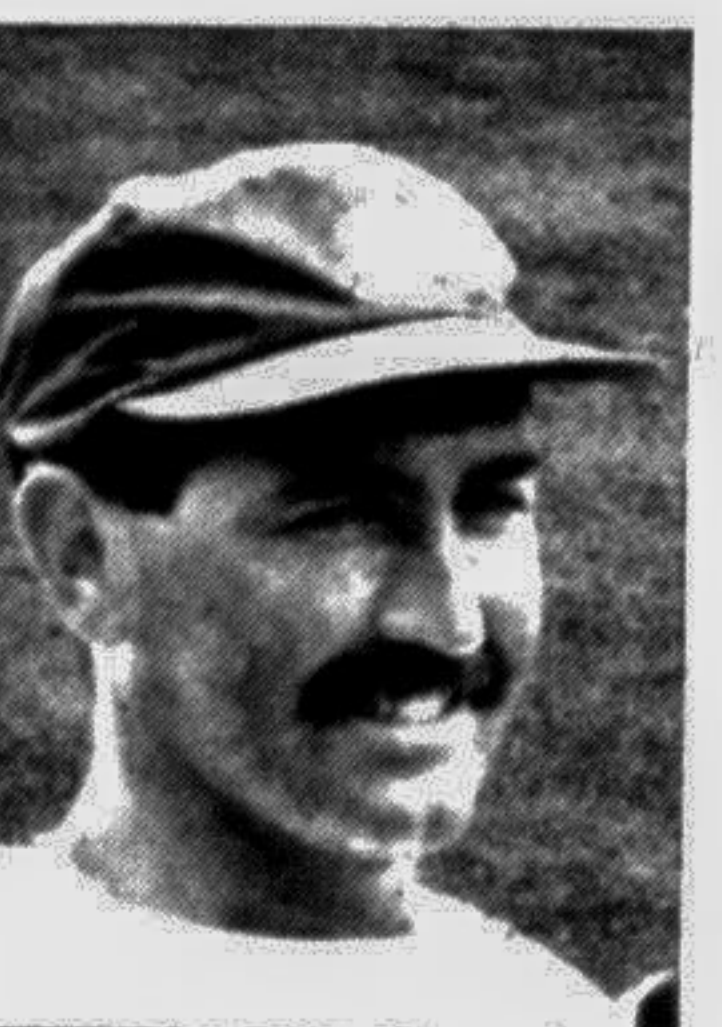
Either, Dominic Cork, who made an impressive debut against Pakistan (1 for 37 in 11 overs) last summer, or Andrew Caddick, the 6 ft. 5 in. clone of Sir Richard Hadlee, shall assist Paul Jarvis, Chris Lewis and Derek Pringle. Richard Illingworth will be there for variation. The omission of Philip DeFreitas speaks of the selectors' look out for young talents.

On paper English bowling appears rather suspect, lacking in experience and sharpness. But one should remember that Paul Jarvis was fairly impressive on placid Indian wickets. His, as well as Derek Pringle's, ability to move the ball will prove effective on swinging conditions of home wickets.

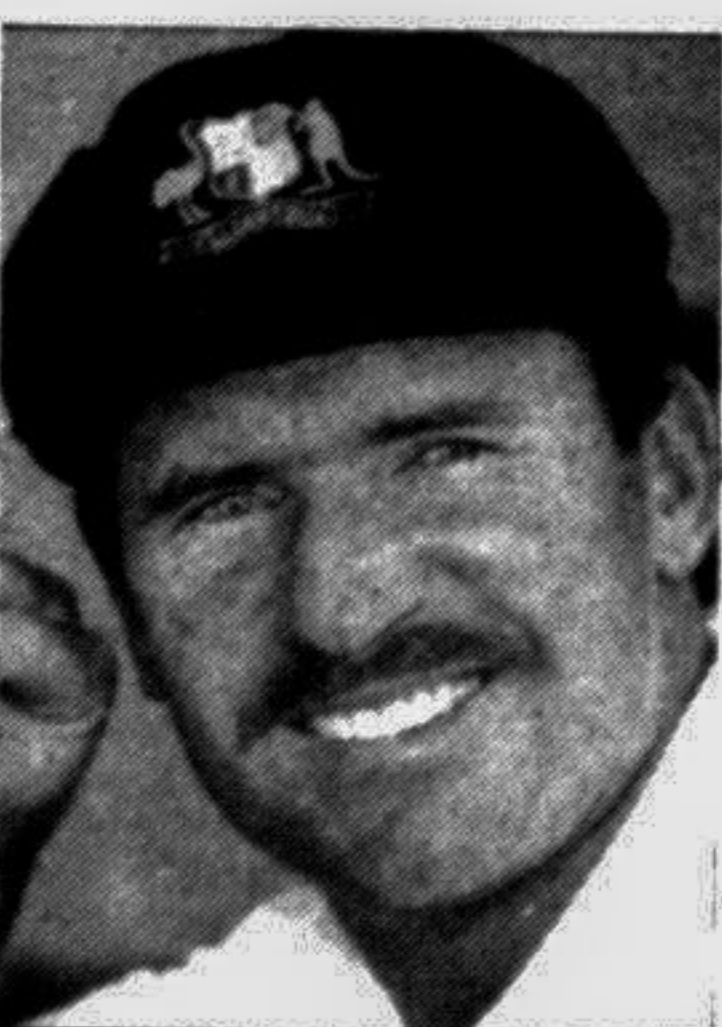
From the above analysis it is obvious that there is not much to choose. It is always difficult to beat the Englishmen on their home grounds, and this is rather true in one-dayers than in the Tests. Moreover, instant cricket is a game on the day and it would be inappropriate to make any prediction.

But one prediction can safely be made and that is, the three one-dayers are going to be keenly contested and one-day thrills will be plentiful. Graham Gooch has the unenviable task of effecting a resurgence of English cricket and wipe off the 'brown wash' suffered during the winter. Allan Border will also be no less keen to set the tempo for the ensuing battle for the Ashes. When the two old rivals meet, cricket can not but be exciting and enthralling.

Postscript: I would like to correct a wrong statistical data given in my write-up on the Pakistan-West Indies series published on May 13. Wasim Akram took nine wickets (not seven as mentioned) for 358 at an average of 39.77.



GRAHAM GOOCH



ALLAN BORDER

comers, Matthew Hayden and Michael Slater, both 22, are already amongst runs in the preliminary matches and it would not surprise me if they succeed in dislodging vice-captain Mark Taylor from the opening slot in the one-day matches.

Either of the two freshman pace bowlers, Wayne Holdsworth and Brendon Julian, will possibly be teamed up with experienced Craig McDermott, Merv Hughes and Paul Reffel. Merv Hughes, in some sort of injury problem, may well be saved for the Tests. Shane Warne, the leg-spinner, who matured into a fine match-winning bowler last summer, may prove to be Australia's trump card in the current series. Mark Waugh could very well fill in the fifth bowler's place in the one-dayers. The experienced off-spinner Tim May could also be useful. Waugh brothers (Mark and Steve) all-round ability could come in handy for Allan Border who himself as well can turn his arm profitably, if needed.

Australia's batting strength will be built around David Boon, who continues to be in very good form since the World Cup, and Mark Waugh, who had a very successful tour of New Zealand where he opened in the one-dayers and his scores of 60, 57, 108 and

Seles withdraws from French Open

VAIL, Colo. May 18: Monica Seles, recovering from a stabbing attack by a spectator earlier this month, will not play in the French Open, reports AP.

"She's withdrawing from the French today (Monday)," Stephanie Tolson of International Management Group told the Rocky Mountain News. Tolson also said an update on the 19-year-old Yugoslav star's condition would probably be released Tuesday.

The injury to her shoulder, sustained during a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, on May 7, could also force the world's No. 1 female player to miss Wimbledon. She's recuperating at the 'Steadman-Hawkins Clinic in Vail.

Steffi Graf of Germany replaces Seles as the top seed in the French Open, which begins Monday. Seles has won three consecutive titles in the Grand Slam event.

Becker without a coach again

FRANKFURT, May 18: Boris Becker and his Austrian coach Guenter Bresnik have parted company, leaving the German tennis star without a coach one week before the French Open, reports AP.

Becker's manager Ion Tiriac said in a statement released Monday that Becker and Bresnik ended their partnership as of Sunday by "mutual agreement."

Becker hired Bresnik during the US Open in September and the Austrian became his fifth coach. Bresnik also is the coach of the Austrian Davis Cup team.

The German then won indoor tournaments in Basel, Switzerland, and Paris, and the ATP Tour World Championship in Frankfurt last year, followed by titles at the Dubai Open and in Milan earlier this year.

But he has had a disastrous clay-court season, failing to advance beyond the third round in five tournaments.

Arbachakov puts WBC crown on line

TOKYO, May 18: Russian champion Yuri Arbachakov will defend his World Boxing Council flyweight title against top-ranked challenger Ysalas Zamudio of the United States in Kobe, western Japan, on July 16, Arbachakov's manager said Monday, reports AP.

Arbachakov, based in Japan, is the first fighter from the former Soviet Union to win a professional world title. He will fight Zamudio at the WBC's request, manager Mack Kanehira said.

Zamudio, a 24-year-old fighter from California, is the WBC's No. 1 contender.

It will be the 26-year-old Arbachakov's third defence of the title he won from Muangchai Kittikseem of Thailand last June 23 in Tokyo with an eight-round knockout.

Arbachakov told a news conference Monday that he will knock out the American challenger by the fourth or fifth round at the latest.

Arbachakov, winner of the 1989 World Cup amateur boxing championship in Moscow, said of Zamudio: "I watched a fight of his on videotape, and I thought he is a skillful boxer with a strong heart."

Sweden retain world title

GOTHENBURG, May 18: Sweden won the world table tennis title for the third successive time when they overcame China 3-1 despite a shock defeat for Olympic champion Jan-Ove Waldner here on Monday, reports AFP.

Waldner, widely regarded as the best player in the world, led 15-10 in the final game against Ma Wenge but was unable to contain an inspired spell of attacking by the World Cup winner and went down 21-14, 14-21, 22-20.

However, he returned to the table about an hour later and complete the host country's triumph, to the ecstasy of 6,000 spectators, by succeeding in another three-game thriller against defender Wang Hao.

All four contests went the full distance in what was the best men's team final since Hungary caused a shock by winning in 1979.

Indeed underdogs China played so well they could easily have brought down the favourites and title holders.

Wang Hao, who played with courage and imagination despite his two defeats was desperately close to winning the opening encounter when he led a nervous Peter Karlsson by

a game and 19-16. Had he taken that, and had the final gone to a fifth match as looked more than possible, China would have become favourites to cause and upset with the brilliant Ma Wenge scheduled to play the decider against Karlsson.

Instead Karlsson, playing in his first world team final, found his range against Wang Hao with his forehand loop follow-ups just when it seemed too late.

Three times he scored winners as he snatched five points on the trot and the second game 21-19.

After that the mood of the contest changed, with Karlsson less tense, and although Wang Tao pulled back a third game deficit of 3-10 to 13-13, another solid spell of forehand loop attacking saw the Swede home.

The inclusion of Karlsson — the only regular leading player to go through the team event unbeaten — caused the world champion Jorgan Persson to be relegated to the number three position and only one match.

But that match proved as crucial as the others because Persson had to save two game points against Wang Tao — a player once discarded by one of the lesser known clubs in the Swedish league.

The burly, flat-hitting left-hander was a revelation on a night during which all three Chinese players played close to the limit of their abilities.

Wang Tao led 21-10 and 22-21 in the first game and was not overcome until he had dragged the very best backhand-hitting and forehand-looping from the world champion near the end of the match. The score was 26-24, 16-21, 21-16.

Waldner, who had been so brilliantly out-hit by Ma Wenge in the night's second encounter, was nevertheless resilient enough to resist an other audacious challenge to his supremacy in the crucial fourth match.

Halfway through the third game of his 21-16, 17-21, 21-13 victory over Wang Hao the Olympic champion began to find the angles to stretch his opponent wider on each wing. But it still took many long and hard-worked rallies to finish him off.

"For me it was the mental strength of our players that won it for us," said Sweden's team manager Anders Thundstrom after his last match in charge.

"It's very special for us to win the world title in Sweden, but always difficult to win when you are favourites."

ETTU wants ITTF to reconsider

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, May 18: Europe's leading table tennis official called for the games ruling body to reconsider the ban on

glues used to stick rubbers to bats while the move also came under fire from leading players on Monday, reports Reuters.

European Table Tennis Federation (ETTU) president Hans Wilhelm Gaeb said the in-

ternational federations (ITTF) move last week to ban the glues for health reasons had been made without sufficient research and should be postponed for a year.

Sweden's world champion Jorgen Persson, who is involved in the CTFP Union which represents the players, criticised the decision after his team had won the men's team title.

"We are all disappointed. We showed tonight how good table tennis can be. We could never have played like that without the glue."

The players' union was due to meet today to discuss the controversial decision which was announced by ITTF president Ichiro Oigimura after a council meeting last Friday.

Gaeb said the ban, which will come into effect on September 1, threatened the future of the sports.

"I was one of the first people to speak out for a restriction on glues for health reasons. But this has been decided by decree without proper discussion. The players have been left not knowing what to do, Gaeb said.

"We must get rid of dangerous glues but at the same time we can't make a decision which could ruin the sport and treat the players as though they have no common sense."

The ETTU believes the move should be put off for 12 months while the details are discussed properly.

The ITTF is concerned about the use of toxic glues which can be a health hazard because of the fumes. The ITTF's equipment committee recommended the glue should be replaced by a double-side adhesive sheet or a pre-coated rubber.

Glueing-up is the practice of using soft glue to restick rubbers to bats about 30 minutes before matches to increase the speed of serves.



China's Shen Lian Feng in action in the final of the women's singles badminton against compatriot Lin Xiao Ming at the first East Asian Games in Shanghai on May 17. Shen won the gold beating Lin 11-3, 11-7. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 He gave us a lift

5 "Encore!"

8 Shake-spearan septet

12 "Barney Miller" spinoff

13 Sodom evacuee

14 Wash

15 Film director Riefenstahl

16 Actress Alicia

17 NYSE counterpart

18 Rearward

20 Tibetan monk

22 Distinctive characteristics of an area

26 Segment of grass

29 On pension: abbr.

30 — de la Cite

31 Reply to "Shall we?"

32 Auction action

33 Old Persian

DOWN

1 "Man — Mancha"

2 Haber-dashery display

3 "It Romantic?"

4 "Brenda Starr" star

5 Bugs Bunny's voice

6 Charged particle

7 Played for time

8 Texas mission

9 Pres. Warren — Harding

10 First lady?

11 Kinsey

Solution time: 23 mins.

DAW SPA
BALE SHIPS
DEVIL CANOES
CLIFFORD ODETS
LAD ALLEN PEA
ARAM MELD
LINEN THEDA
BURY YHAW
ICE ESROM AWE
SINCLAIR LEWIS
DIABLO ERASE
CROSS TIRE
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CRYPTOQUIP

MHPYNHPY, NLC UKEC-
TCGG KEULJNCUN PKG
SJEEM SHE SKTTCY KEULCG.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WAS STUDYING TO BE A WITCH SOME TIME AGO, BUT I BECAME DISENCHANTED.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals L
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.