

US, Russia share relay golds

STUTTGART, Germany, Aug 22: The United States and Russia won the sprint relays, China completed a sweep of the women's long-distance events and an Ethiopian captured the 10,000 metres after his Kenyan rival lost his shoe, reports AP.

Russia beat the United States in a photo finish in the women's 4X100 relay at the World Championships, while the US men's 4X100 relay team won the gold without matching its world record of the previous day.

With Leroy Burrell running the anchor leg, the Americans won the sprint relay in 37.48 seconds. That was far off the 37.40 they clocked in Saturday's semifinals to equal the world record.

"We pressed to much," Burrell said. "We wanted to break the world record and that cost us some concentration. Our handoffs were nowhere near as good as they were yesterday. We kind of drained ourselves emotionally yesterday."

Jon Drummond, Andre Cason and Dennis Mitchell ran the first three legs for the Americans, who have won the event at all four World Championships.

The British team of Colin Jackson, Tony Jarrett, John Regis and Linford Christie finished second in 37.77, a European record. Canada took

the bronze in 37.83. The British, who had predicted they could beat the Americans, sought to downplay their defeat.

"This was just fun for us," said Christie, the 100-metre champion. "We didn't take it too seriously."

In the women's sprint relay, Irina Privalova caught Gail Devers on the anchor leg and won on the lean at the tape.

Both teams were clocked in 41.49 seconds, the second-fastest time in history. It took several minutes before the Russians were declared the winners.

"I was so nervous in the last 20 metres that I just shut my eyes," Privalova said. "And then the long minutes waiting for the decision..."

It was an ironic twist for Devers, who had won the 100-metre dash in a controversial photo finish over Melene Ottey. Devers had also won the 110-metre hurdles.

"The race was decided by the handoffs," Devers said. "Our first handoff wasn't that good and she (Gwen Torrence) had to reach twice for the baton. That was the difference."

In the women's 4X400 relay, the United States won the gold in a championship record and year's best time of 3:16.71. The team consisted of Gwen Torrence, Maicel Malone, Natasha Kaiser-Brown and Jearl Miles. Russia was second and Britain third.

In the 10,000, Haile Gebrselassie became Ethiopia's first ever gold medalist at the championships — but it was a controversial victory.

He was trailing Moses Tanui, the defending champion, by about two metres as the bell sounded for the final lap. He clipped Tanui's left foot and the Kenyan threw up his arms and kicked off his shoe.

Tanui ran the entire last lap with only one shoe. Despite that, he held the lead most of the way until Gebrselassie caught him midway through the stretch and won in 26 minutes, 46.02 seconds.

Tanui finished second in 27:46.54 and Richard Chelimo, also of Kenya, was third in 28:06.02.

When the Ethiopian approached him after the race, Chelimo pushed him away and help up his shoe as if to hit him.

"I can't shake the hand of an enemy," Tanui said. "He stepped on my shoe because that was the only way he could beat me."

Earlier in the race, with Gebresilasse running on his heels, Tanui turned around and motioned him to go in front. But the Ethiopian stayed put.

Noureddine Morcell, who had threatened to boycott the event in a dispute over prize money, defended his title in the men's 1,500 as he pulled away over the last lap to win in 3:34.24.

Olympic champion Fermin Cacho of Spain finished second in 3:35.56, with Abdi Bile of Somalia third in 3:35.96. Olympic champion Javier Sotomayor of Cuba won the high jump at 2.40 metres, but missed two attempts at raising his world record from 2.45 to 2.46. That completed a Cuban sweep of the high jump following Quintero loanet Quintero's victory in the women's event.

Trine Hattested of Norway won the women's javelin in 69.18 metres. Dong Liu of China pulled away over the last lap to win the women's 1,500 metres. Liu beat the rest of the field in the 1,500 metres by nearly 25 metres as she clocked 4:00.50 in hot, muggy conditions at the Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium on the final bay of the championships.

Her time was nearly four seconds faster than her previous personal best. "The race was quite slow at the start, so I decided to take the lead after 700 metres," she said. "I never had any doubt about my victory."

Sonia O'Sullivan of Ireland won the silver in 4:04.29. Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria, the Olympic champion and defending world champion, finished third in 4:06.06.

The fans, displeased with the sudden Chinese dominance in the sport, jeered as Liu won the race. There were also jeers when she accepted the gold medal, with huge cheers reserved for the other medalists.

It was China's fourth gold of the championships and third in the distance events. Chinese women swept all three medals in the 3,000 metres, with Yulna Gu winning in 8:28.71, a championship record, and runner-up Linli Zhang clocking 8:29.25, a world junior record.

In the 10,000 metres, the Chinese were 1-2, with gold medalist Jonxia Wang setting a

world junior record of 8:29.25. The United States went into the final day leading the medals' table with a total of 22, including 10 gold. Russia had the second highest total with 14, but only two gold.

US set a new 4x400m record

STUTTGART, Aug 22: The United States team of Andrew Valmon, Quincy Watts, Butch Reynolds and Michael Johnson smashed the world record in the 1,600-metre relay Sunday, with a time of 2 minutes, 54.29 seconds at the World Championships, reports AP.

The old mark of 2:55.74 was set by a US team at the 1992 Olympics.

Christie passes drugs test

STUTTGART, Germany, Aug 22: Linford Christie, gold medalist in the 100 metres at the World Championships, passed a drug test after the race, IAAF president Primo Nebiolo said Saturday, reports AP.

At a news conference, Nebiolo responded to rumours about Christie.

"Rumours are rumours and stay rumours," Nebiolo said. "Christie has been tested. The test was completely negative. Christie was not positive. This is officially the reality."

Christie won the 100 metres last Sunday in 9.87 seconds, just off the world record of 9.86.

Romas Ubartas winds up doper

STUTTGART, Aug 22: Lithuania's first Olympic champion, discus thrower Romas Ubartas, on Saturday became the third athlete to test positive for a steroid at the World Athletics Championships, reports Reuter.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said Ubartas, who finished fourth in Tuesday's discus final, had tested positive for Boldenone and faced a four-year ban from competition.

The positive dope test of Ubartas was announced on the same day that two American shot putters who have served drugs bans won silver and bronze.



Russian Ana Biryukova (C), who won the gold medal in the women's triple jump, with her compatriot Yoland Chen (R), the silver winner and Bulgarian Iva Prandzheva (bronze) stand on the podium of the World Athletics Championships in Stuttgart on Saturday.

Another day of pulsating performances

STUTTGART, Aug 22: The world record tally doubled at the World Championships on Saturday when the American men's sprint relay team issued an awesome warning of their speed and Russian triple jumper Ana Biryukova leaped to a gold medal, reports Reuter.

If it came as no surprise that the women's triple jump record should fall in the first major championships in which it has been staged, the US sprinters produced a big shock by equalling their own mark of 37.40 seconds in the semifinals.

Stung by the US failure to win an individual sprint gold, Jon Drummond, Andre Cason, Dennis Mitchell and Leroy Burrell pulled out all the stops as they stormed round the fast Stuttgart track as if to prove American sprinting is not dead.

"I'm not surprised we ran so fast. We have a lot of leg speed," said Burrell, who like Mitchell was a member of the quartet

which set the record in last year's Olympic final in Barcelona.

"Our rhythm was a little bit off but it looks like we don't have too many problems," Mitchell said. "Tomorrow, we're looking at taking the world record down a little bit."

There were no world records in the first half of the week-long competition at Stuttgart but the two on Saturday took the tally to four — a World Championship record in itself — in just three days after Britons Sally Gunnell and Colin Jackson broke the women's 400 metres hurdles and men's 110 metres hurdles marks respectively on Thursday and Friday.

Biryukova became the first woman to break the 15 metre barrier with a winning jump of 15.09 metres on her fifth attempt, beating the two-month old mark set by fellow-Russian Yolanda Chen, who won the silver.

There were gold and silver doubles too for Kenya in the 3,000 metres steeplechase,

China in a controversial women's 10,000 metres race and Cuba in the women's high jump, while Swiss Werner Günthoro retained his men's shot world title.

The women's 10,000 metres was won by 18-year-old Wang Junxia of China in 30 minutes 49.30 seconds, the fourth fastest time in history, from compatriot Zhong Huandi.

But it turned into a controversy when Olympic silver medalist Elana Meyer of South Africa left the track in tears after 6,000 metres, complaining she had been impeded by Kenyan Selina Barsosio.

"The Kenyan kept pushing me," Meyer sobbed. "Obviously it was not the right decision to give up but I'd been pushed around. It was terrible."

Barsosio, who finished third, received a warning for obstruction from a race judge and officials said later she had been disqualified, lifting another Kenyan, Tecla Lorufe, to the bronze medal position.

But they amended the statement later, saying a mistake had been made and that Barsosio had won the bronze medal after all. The Kenyan also complained she had been pushed by the Chinese and by American Lynn Jennings.

Jennings, who was fifth, said: "There was a lot of jostling. It was a very, very physical race. It was much more of a roller derby than I have ever been in before."

Kenyan Moses Kiptanui and Patrick Sang repeated the gold and silver they won at the last World Championships in Tokyo two years ago, this time in the eighth fastest 3,000 metres steeplechase ever.

Kiptanui won in eight minutes 6.36 seconds and said he thought of breaking his own world record of 8:02.08. "I could have run faster and broken the world record but I didn't want to risk both," he said.

Alessandro Lambroschini of Italy took the bronze just ahead of Olympic champion Matthew Birr, preventing a Kenyan medals sweep.

With German world and Olympic women's high jump champion Heike Henkel of Germany injured and world record holder Stefka Kostadinova of Bulgaria failing to qualify, Cuba's loanet Quintero won gold from compatriot Silvia Costa.

Quintero's 1.99-metre clearance was the lowest winning height in a World Championship. "It didn't matter that Kostadinova and Henkel were absent," she said. "I'm not happy with the height but I am with the gold medal."

Günthoro, fourth at last year's Barcelona Olympics behind three medalists who had served suspensions for doping, this time won ahead of three shot putters who have also had drugs bans — world record holder Randy Barnes and Olympic champion Mike Stulce, both Americans, and Ukrainian Aleksander Bagach.

World champions Britain, surprise victors over the United States in the men's 4X400 metres relay in Tokyo, failed to make the final, finishing only fourth in their semifinal.

French relay squad reinstated

STUTTGART, Germany, Aug 22: The French 4x100 women's relay team has been reinstated for Sunday's final at the World Championships, reports AP.

The team was originally disqualified after Saturday's semifinals on grounds that the athletes ran out of their lane.

The French delegation lodged a protest, which was upheld by the race jury of appeals.

The Canadian team, which had replaced France in the lineup after the disqualification, will not compete in the final.

The jury rejected a protest by the French 4x100 men's relay team, also disqualified in the semifinals for running out of lane.

The women's team is anchored by Marie-Jose Perrec, the Olympic 400-metre champion.



Chinese runners Jonxia Wang (L) and Huandi Zhong carry the national flag after winning the gold and silver respectively in the women's 10,000m run at the Stuttgart World Championships on August 21.

Peerless Moses Kiptanui

STUTTGART, Aug 22: Kenyan steeplechaser Moses Kiptanui missed out on the biggest party in sport in Barcelona last year. But he has bounced back since with a remarkable run of success, reports Reuter.

Kiptanui failed to qualify for the Kenyan team for last year's Olympics after finishing only fourth in the national trials because of knee problems.

But just a week after the Games, the 21-year-old powered his way to two world records in four days.

And on Saturday he proved he is still master of the 3,000 metres steeplechase by successfully defending his title at the World Athletics Championships.

Kiptanui was locked in a fascinating duel with compatriot Patrick Sang, the Olympic and 1991 World silver medalist, before sprinting away after the final barrier to win in eight minutes 6.36 seconds. Sang was second in 8:07.53.

Italian Alessandro Lambroschini, fourth in Barcelona, took the bronze medal with a personal best of 8:08.78 to stop a Kenyan clean sweep.

Kenya's Olympic champion

Matthew Birr, who has been suffering with injuries this season, was fourth in 8:09.42.

The steeplechase is the showpiece for Kenya whose athletes have won the event at the last three Olympics.

Kiptanui said he still felt disappointed about missing out on Barcelona but was already looking forward to the next Games in Atlanta in 1996.

"I still feel a bit bad about Barcelona. But I must look to the future," he said. "1996 is a long way away but I want to be Olympic champion."

Kiptanui's remarkable run at the rich Weltklasse meeting in Zurich on August 19 last year when he shaved more than three seconds off the world record with a time of 8:02.08 was one of the greatest sights of the season.

It was even more astonishing as Kiptanui had broken the world 3,000 metres record just three days earlier at the Cologne Grand Prix.

Without pacemakers and money on offer for a record, Kiptanui was only interested in winning medals on Saturday. He ran an intelligent race.

With just two laps to go, Kiptanui, Sang and Moroccan Larbi Khattabi were some 20 metres ahead of the rest of the

field as they picked up the pace. Khattabi, who finished seventh, could not live with the speed and Kiptanui and Sang came off the final bend together.

Kiptanui then found the extra burst of speed after the last barrier to win with relative ease. "I could have run faster and broken the world record but I didn't want to risk trying to get both," he said. "It was a tougher race than in 1991."

The victory brought the Kenyans, traditionally strong in the middle distance and distance events, their third gold medal of the Stuttgart Championships after Israel Kirui's 5,000 metres triumph and Paul Ruto's 800 victory.

The Kenyans have brought a new dimension to middle and long distance running this year, running as a team with designated pacemakers at both the World Cross Country Championships and at the current championships.

Sang said the Kenyans had employed team tactics in the steeplechase. "We worked as a team. But I knew Kiptanui was very talented and he would be tough to beat," said Sang. "Unfortunately Lambroschini was too quick at the end and managed to take a bronze from us."

Shoe makes him rue

STUTTGART, Aug 22: For the want of a good insole, Mark Croghan might have broken the American record in the 3,000-metre steeplechase at the World Championships, reports AP.

As it was, Croghan, running the race Saturday night after the insole in his shoes came apart at the first water jump, finished fifth in 8 minutes, 9.76 seconds, his personal best, but just short of the US record of 8:09.17 held by Henry Marsh.

Croghan runs in Nike shoes. Company spokesman Keith Peters said Sunday that Nike was blameless.

Peters said that Croghan had taken out the Nike insoles in his shoes and replaced them with insoles he had purchased in a local store.

"I don't know why," Peters said. "It's not our insole."

This was the second incident involving an American athlete wearing Nike shoes at the Championships.

Tuesday night, in the 400-metre final, Quincy Watts, the 1992 Olympic gold medalist, finished fourth, missing a medal by .49 of a second, after the sole of his left shoe came apart near the 200-metre mark.

Afterward, Tom Hartoe, Nike's marketing manager, said he didn't know what went wrong with Watts' shoe.

Nebiolo firm on his stance

STUTTGART, Germany, Aug 22: IAAF president Primo Nebiolo said Sunday he has no intention of bowing to athletes' demands for prize-money at World Championships — now or in the future, reports AP.

"The reality is this — no money, no compromise, no arrangements," Nebiolo said at a news conference on the final day of the championships.

Many top athletes, including Carl Lewis, have been pressing the International Amateur Athletic Federation to offer cash payments at the biennial championships.

Noureddine Morcell of Algeria, the world record-holder at 1,500 metres, threatened to boycott the current championships in a dispute over the issue.

Morcell claimed that a few athletes were being paid, while he wasn't. He agreed to compete only after he was assured that all athletes are being treated the

same. "When we explained that we hadn't given a single dollar to any athlete, Morcell immediately accepted to come," Nebiolo said. "We didn't arrange any special deals with anyone."

As a compromise, individual gold medalists are receiving a luxury Mercedes car worth between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

Nebiolo said Mercedes will offer the same deal at the next championships in Goteberg, Sweden, in 1995.

While prize-money is offered at IAAF meets, Nebiolo said no cash should be offered at the Olympics or World Championships because athletes should be competing for a "higher ideal."

The IAAF president said regulations have improved with the association of athletes' agents, headed by 1978 Olympic 200-metre champion Don Quarrie of Jamaica.

Before Quarrie took over, the association threatened to organize a boycott of the Stuttgart

competition if no prize-money was offered.

Nebiolo said the group has since dropped the phrase "prize-money" from its documents and now refers only to "prizes" suggesting that while cash payments will be continued to be banned, cars and other gifts can be arranged.

"This is a good thing because it will open the doors to good agreements between us and the agents," he said.

Nebiolo also defended the IAAF decision to hold the championships every two years instead of four. Some athletes have complained that three major competitions every four years, including the Olympics, is too much.

"Athletes need more exposure," Nebiolo said. "Having the World Championships every two years brings us enormous publicity around the world."

He called the Stuttgart Championships "a bigger success than we could ever have imagined."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Q N Z G S N A K Y Z V K A C S N S C

G A W C K A V Y S R S

N F A K S K Y F V S

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BYLAWS OF "HIGH SOCIETY" ACTRESS'S FAN CLUB STIPULATED A GRACE PERIOD.

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.