

Christie overrun by American power

Finishing second isn't bad



BERLIN, Aug 28: Two of the best races at this year's Berlin international track and field meet — which featured 27 world champions — produced two unusually happy second-place finishers, reports AP.

For Jon Drummond, the joy in Friday night's race was in leading the 100-metre dash until the very end, when Leroy Burrell flashed by in 10-12 seconds, but world champion Linford Christie stayed behind.

As he did at the World Championships in Stuttgart last week, Butch Reynolds was only a few steps behind as Michael Johnson pulled away to win the 400 metres, this time with a sizzling 43.94 seconds.

But Reynolds found out after the race that he had won nearly \$700,000 in damages in a suit stemming from his 28-month suspension by the International Amateur Athletic Federation for alleged drug use.

"It helps a lot," said Reynolds, the world record-holder in the 400 at 43.23 seconds. He said he hopes to get his legal battles behind him and shake off the "mental lapses" he blames for his subpar performances.

Friday's ruling by a Virginia federal magistrate was against Mobil Corp, a major sponsor of IAAF meets. In December, the same judge ordered the IAAF to pay Reynolds \$700,000, but the international body refuses.

Nouredine Morceli of Algeria, who had a tussle of his own with the IAAF in threatening to boycott Stuttgart unless he got appearance money, remained a force to be reckoned with after Friday's meet.

He ran the third-fastest mile ever, doing it all alone for the

last 500 metres after two pace-setters peeled off. His time of 3 minutes, 46.78 seconds was just .46 seconds off the 1985 record set by Steve Cram of Britain.

"The pace was exactly right for me," said Morceli, the world champion in the 1,500 metres. "I am still very young (23) and maybe I am not tough enough at the end of the race."

In the women's long jump, Jackie Joyner-Kersey beat German world champion Heike Drechsler with a jump of 23 feet, 2 1/2 inches (7.07 metres). It was the first meeting between the two since the 1991 World Championships at Tokyo.

Christie has now been beaten just twice this year. Each time, Burrell won the race. But this time, Drummond also edged out the 33-year-old Briton as both finished in 10.13.

"You know Linford and Leroy are exceptionally known for their surge at the end," Drummond said. "I did feel I was leading the whole way."

Drummond said he didn't look for his competitors, then failed to lean.

"I've been practicing not leaning because that kind of hurts me. I haven't yet learned how to lean," said the 24-year-old, who shared a gold with Burrell in Stuttgart as the United States won the 400-metre relay.

There was vindication in Berlin for Burrell, who failed to qualify for the 100 metres last week at Stuttgart.

"I'm just here trying to gain a little self-respect for what's happened in the last few years," he said. Christie refused to comment when asked if he was glad Burrell hadn't run at Stuttgart.

He also was asked when he

intended to take a shot at Carl Lewis' world record for 9.86 seconds.

"I'm not in the sport to break world records. I'm just in the sport to win the big ones," Christie said, to applause from Drummond.

Mike Powell won the men's long jump at 26-8 1/4 (8.13 metres), besting fellow American Tony Barton by 2 3/4 inches (7 centimetres). But the real matchup was in the women's long jump between Joyner-Kersey and Drechsler.

Joyner-Kersey won the heptathlon at Stuttgart, but opted out of the long jump, fearing a repeat of Tokyo, when she injured herself. Drechsler had only been lost once this year.

In the women's 100, world champ Merlene Ottey of Jamaica fought off Irina Privalova of Russia in 11.01 seconds, and Sandra Framer-Patrick won the women's 400-metre hurdles in 54.37 seconds, more than a second faster than fellow American Tonja Buford.

World record-holder Randy Barnes won the shot put at 70-5 1/4 (21.47 metres), beating countrymen Jim Doehring, whose best was 69-4 3/4 (21.15 metres), and Stuttgart world champion Werner Guenthoer of Switzerland, who threw 69-3 1/2 (21.12 metres).

In the women's high jump, Stefka Kostadinova of Bulgaria, the world record-holder, won at 6-6 3/4 (2 metres). Yelena Topchina of Russia and Ioanmet Quintero of Cuba each reached 6-5 (1.96 metres).

In the women's 800 metres, world champion Maria Mutola of Mozambique won in 1:57.99, almost a second ahead of Joetta Clark of the United States.

Sergei Bubka of Ukraine won the pole vault at 19-2 1/2 (5.85 metres).

Reynolds richer for \$ 700,000

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia, Aug 28: American athlete Butch Reynolds won a 700,000-dollar court case against International petrol giant Mobil here on Friday, reports AP.

Virginia Federal Judge W Curtis Sewell ordered the company, which sponsors International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) meetings, to pay the 400m world record holder and world silver medalist \$91,667 dollars in damages.

The judgement follows Reynolds' 27.3 million dollar award from an Ohio court against the IAAF after he was banned for allegedly using steroids, a charge he has always denied.

"Butch is delighted with this decision," Mimi Dane, one of his lawyers said.

Reynolds was expected to make an announcement about the case after his run at the Berlin Grand Prix on Friday.

Dane said the money would be handed over to the district court and held there pending an appeal from the IAAF.

Reynolds was suspended by athletics chiefs for two years for using drugs in 1990 but always denied the test result, arguing there had been a mix-up of samples.

He received a second ban after he took part in the American Olympic trials, which led to him being barred from Barcelona but returned to win a silver behind fellow-American Michael Johnson in the World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, earlier this month.

The IAAF has always refused to pay the Ohio award. "Never, not even if he lives to be 200," IAAF president Nobiolo has said.

Gold for Jadiddi

TORONTO, Aug 28: Abbas Jadiddi of Iran beat American Melvin Douglas 2-1 in overtime Friday night to claim the 180.5-pound (82-kilogram) gold medal in the World Free-style Wrestling Championships, reports AP.

Jadiddi, the reigning Asian champion, led 2-1 at the end of regulation time, but three points are necessary for a match to be ended by score. Jadiddi still led after three minutes of overtime and was awarded the gold by referee's decision.

"They gave him two points he shouldn't have gotten," Douglas said. "No matter how much I wrestle, I can't beat the officials. I felt I won the match."

Douglas' view of things was backed by US free-style coach Bruce Burnett.

"I felt that Melvin outwrestled him," he said. "The officials gave him (Jadiddi) two escapes that never happened."

"I feel bad for Melvin. He wrestled awful hard and deserved to win. He's trained hard and I'm sick for him."

Also winning golds Friday night were Bulgaria's Valentin Jordanov, a resident of Newtown Square, Pa, at 114.5 pounds (52 kilograms) and Akbar Fallah of Iran at 149.5 (68 kilograms).

Two Americans advanced to gold medal matches on Saturday.

Dave Schultz, the 1984 Olympic champion wrestling at 163 pounds (74 kilograms), won three matches on Friday to earn a spot opposite 1992 Olympic champion Park Jang-Soon of South Korea.

Money makes world go round



BERLIN, Aug 28: Money certainly makes the athletes go round, whether the purists like it or not, reports Reuter.

The lure of 20 gold bars in the new "Golden Four" series of Grand Prix meetings had brought an extra buzz to the athletics season after the Stuttgart World Championships.

While meetings following major events have often lacked competitive bite, the third stage of the series in Berlin on Friday provided emphatic proof that athletes will push extra hard if there is cash at stake.

The 20 one kg gold bars, estimated to be worth 200,000 dollars, will be awarded to athletes who win their events at all four of this season's inaugural series of meetings in Oslo, Zurich, Berlin and Brussels.

All the eight athletes in the running for the unprecedented jackpot came to the German capital. After sealing victories in Berlin, six packed their bags on Saturday hoping to get the key to the bank vault at next Friday's showdown in Brussels.

Algerian 1,500 metres world champion Nouredine Morceli, Mozambique's 800 runner Maria Mutola, Jamaican sprinter Merlene Ottey, American 400 metres star Michael

Johnson, Norway's Trine Hattestad in the women's javelin and Ireland's distance-runner Sonal O'Sullivan all have a chance.

But Germany's long jump world champion Heike Drechsler, beaten by American world heptathlon champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey, and Swiss shot putter Werner Guenthoer, who finished third behind American Randy Barnes, dropped out of contention.

"Like all professional sportsmen," track and field athletes know they have a sell-by date in sport and are keen to put money away for a rainy day.

The fierce debate over prize money in Stuttgart showed that many want financial rewards extended to major championships.

No money was paid there although the winners received new Mercedes sports cars. But a huge television deal has provided the cash for the "Golden Four" which looks certain to become the focus of future athletics seasons.

Athletes are unlikely to dismiss World Championships or Olympic Games which will still be regarded as prestigious. To athletes, championship medals are the equivalent of the qualifications that go in bold letters on business cards. The more letters, the more money promoters have to pay.

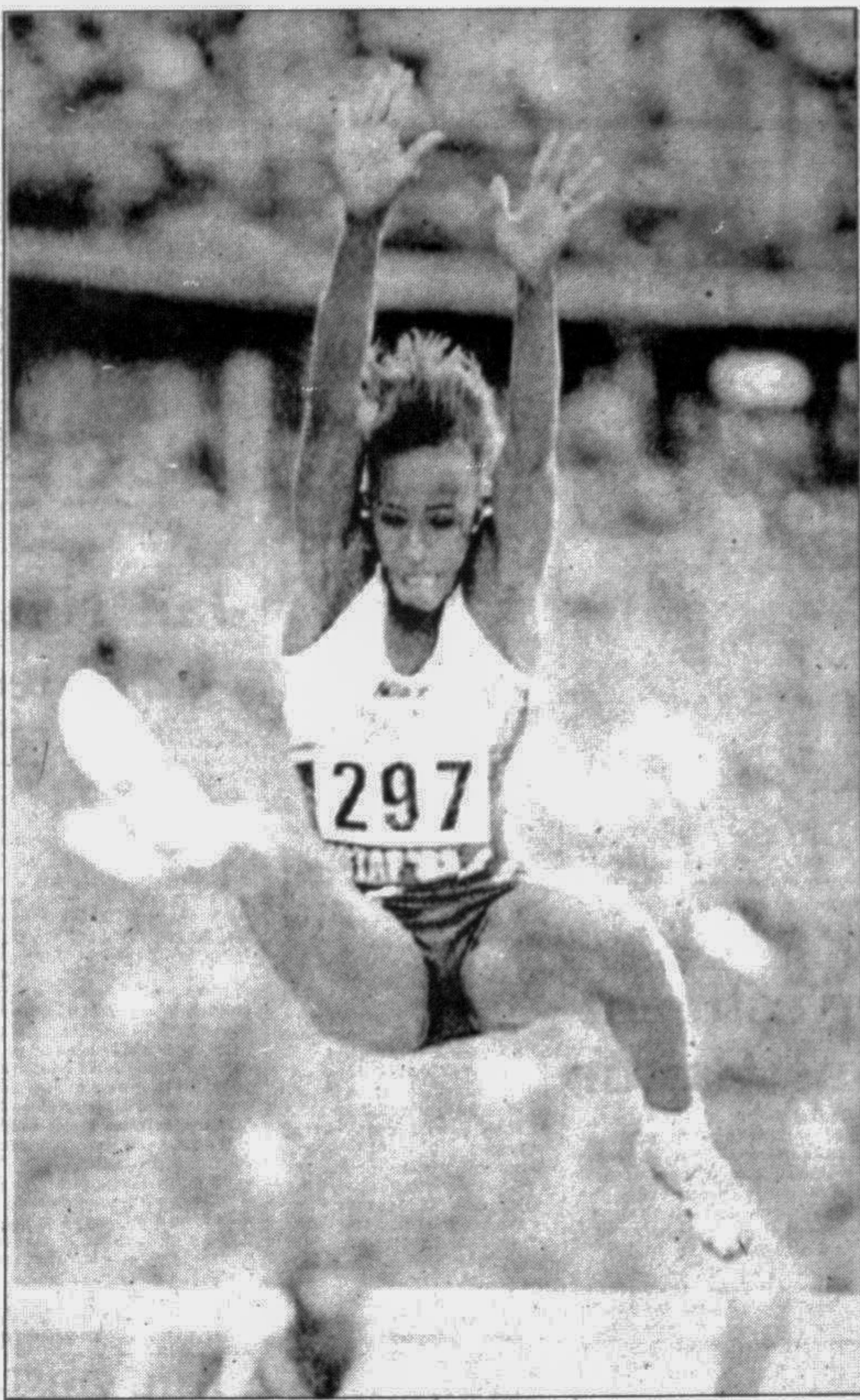
Yet it was an enlightening sight in Berlin to watch Morceli attack Steve Cram eight-year-old world record in the mile, an event which has held a special place in athletics since Briton Roger Bannister broke the four-minute barrier nearly 40 years ago.

Bannister's main motivation was a place in history when he headed off around a cinder track in Oxford in May 1954. Morceli, by contrast, had the extra incentive of 15,000 dollars for a world record as well as his hopes of staying in the golden jackpot.

The Algerian world 1,500 metres champion, who threatened to boycott Stuttgart because there was no prize money, failed to beat Cram's three minutes, 46.32 seconds set in Oslo in July 1985 but ran the third fastest mile in history in 3:46.78.

Some believe it will not be long before the "Golden Four" expands to the "Golden Five" or "Golden Six", effectively killing off most of the other smaller Grand Prix meetings because they will be little attraction for the athletes.

But Berlin promoter Rudi Thiel said it was more likely the "Golden Four" would stay in place for its first three seasons to establish its place firmly in the track and field calendar.



American Jackie Joyner-Kersey about to touch down during the women's long jump at the IAAF Grand Prix meeting in Berlin on August 27. The Olympic and world champion won with a leap of 7.08 metres. — AFP photo

Rogers sets a new mark

MELBOURNE, Aug 28: Australian Phil Rogers powered to a new world 100-metre breaststroke record late on Friday at the Australian short-course championships, shaving almost a quarter of a second from the previous record, reports Reuter.

Rogers clocked 59.07 seconds, slicing 0.23 second off the previous mark set in 1990 by Russian Dmitri Volkov in Germany.

"It was awesome," Rogers said after the swim. "I was there in Bonn the night Volkov set the record. To say I was surprised is an understatement."

Rogers, who won a bronze in the 100 metre breaststroke in Barcelona last year, said he was now set on doing better at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Lenzi wins 3m springboard title

PASADENA, Calif, Aug 28: American Mark Lenzi won the 3-meter springboard title by more than 20 points over Dmitry Sautin of Russia on Friday in the Alamo Challenge, a diving meet featuring the United States, China, Germany and Russia, reports AP.

Lenzi, who won a gold medal in the same event at the 1992 Olympics, totalled 609.25 points to Sautin's 586.50. Jan Hempel of Germany won the bronze with 563.55. Current US 3-meter champion Mark Bradshaw, US, was fourth with 558.55.

Lenzi took the lead on the seventh dive and led the rest of the way in the 11-dive competition. His best dive was his ninth, a forward 3 1/2 somersault pike, that received four 8s and an 8.5.

Tan Shuping of China won the women's 1-meter springboard title, and Svetlana Khokhlova of Russia won the women's platform.

Tan took the lead from 1992 Olympic bronze medalist Brita Baldus of Germany in the fourth round of the five-dive competition and held on to total 252.10 to 249.30 for Baldus. Vera Ivina of Russia was third with 236.30.

In the platform, Khokhlova led after six rounds in the eight-dive competition and totalled 413.20 to 403.45 for Chi Bin of China.

American Mary Ellen Clark, the 1992 Olympic platform bronze medalist, was third with 371.35 Eileen Rickettelli, US, was fifth.

Istanbul eager for IOC nod

ISTANBUL, Aug 28: Istanbul's bid for the 2000 Summer Olympics represents the first time a predominantly Muslim country has sought to host the Games, reports Reuter.

Turkish officials say awarding the Games to Istanbul would be a recognition of Turkey's enhanced regional role after the breakup of the Soviet Union and the collapse of Yugoslavia.

Turkey's influence has grown in an area stretching from the Adriatic to the Chinese border and it is seeking to become a link for trade between Europe and the former Soviet republics in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

"This region needs the Olympics more than any other part of the world, and members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) are aware of this," said Tefvik Bilgin, a planning manager at the Istanbul office of Young and Rubicam, a US advertising firm hired by Istanbul.

Turkish officials say Istanbul's multi-cultural image, a favourable report by an IOC inquiry commission and a series of visits by IOC members have bolstered Istanbul's chances.

A plan to finance the travel costs of the 15,000 athletes and third world journalists to cover the Games has also helped, they say.

The IOC report praised Istanbul's plan to hold all events within a compact 40-km (25-mile) radius and house athletes in a single Olympic Village for the first time since World War Two.

But it criticised the city's traffic congestion and said its telecommunications were inadequate. It said Istanbul had only one sports facility which met Olympic standards.

With about nine million people, this bustling, heavily-polluted city, is a powerhouse of trade, finance and industry.

"Istanbul has always been a city of tolerance, where

Muslims, Christians and Jews have lived peacefully together for centuries," said mayor Nurettin Sozen, glossing over some of the uglier chapters in Turkey's 20th century history which shrank its once-large Armenian and Greek Orthodox communities.

Divided by the Bosphorus Waterway, the fast-expanding city straddles Asia and Europe.

Olympics organisers plan to hold events in each continent. The marathon would be staged in both, with runners racing from Asia to Europe across the Bosphorus Bridge.

More than 70 of the 91 IOC members are expected to visit Istanbul before voting on the venue in Monaco on September 23. Prime Minister Tansu Ciller plans to go to Monte Carlo to lobby for her native city.

Turkish sports officials believe China's human rights record will handicap the chances of another strong contender, Beijing.

Two fish enough to earn Aussies Billfish title

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii, Aug 28: Port Hacking Game Fishing Club of Australia caught just two fish over five days, but it was enough to win the 35th Hawaiian International Billfish tournament, reports AP.

Kamakura Billfish club of Japan pulled to within 16 points Friday with a tag and release, before the Australians pulled away with 100 bonus points for catching the largest fish of the tourney.

Port Hacking led all the way, thanks to a 731-pound (331-kilogram) Pacific blue marlin caught during Monday's Opening action. The Australians had a tag and release Tuesday and then failed to catch any fish over the final three days.

San Rafael Billfish Club of California pulled them into third place Friday by catching the heaviest fish of the day, a 453-pounder (205 kilograms) reeled in by Jim Waters.



World silver medalist Jamaican Merlene Ottey (L) outsprints Russian Irina Privalova to win the women's 100m at the Berlin Grand Prix on Friday. Ottey, who got her first major championship gold in this year's World Championships in Stuttgart, clocked 11.01 seconds. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sousa-phone's kin

5 Common Mkt.

8 Some Texas city

12 Dreyfus' defender

15 Guitar's cousin

16 Suspicious smell?

17 — budget

18 "Star Search" requisite

20 Extra

23 "...oh, where can —?"

24 U.S.

25 They often clash

28 Day, to Emilio

29 Over-sentimental

30 Former acorn

32 Severinsen's prop

34 Annoy

35 Hamilton's foe

36 Piquant

37 Karate Kid's mentor

40 Sleep phenom

41 Press agent?

42 Good-man's "ax"

47 "M" director

48 Unmasking shout?

49 The King's followers?

50 Perch

51 Ollie's pal

DOWN

1 Lid for a lad

2 Actress of charge

3 Thurman

3 Proscription

4 Heat, in Hereford

5 Joyce of "Roc"

6 Whitney or Wallach

7 Scorn

8 Rhododendron's cousin

9 Strange shout?

10 Enthusiasm

11 1/746

12 horse-power

13 They're not free

19 Ann's sister

20 "The — News Bears" (movie)

21 Drop

22 Approach

23 Keyed up

25 Whims

26 Clark's coworker

27 NaCl

29 Too confident

31 Important

33 African river

34 Lax

36 Love, at times

37 Uris' "18"

38 Persia, now

39 Cassius' location?

40 En-grossed

43 CCCV divided by V

44 Enthusiast

45 Historic period

46 Toe count

Solution time: 25 min.

FAST SPOT PAR
IGLU WERE ORA
FOUR IRAN LIZ
IGET NUT BOAZ
LEG EGO
JEWELS SATIRE
AMINE STRAW
NUGENT DELETE
CAR USE
JACK ARM NELL
ONO SLOP EZIO
TITA HEAT CRAW
NIX EERY KANE

Saturday's answer 12-14

12-14 CRYPTOQUIP

M X F X F Z P K T M X Y F F M
P Y H Q I C K I R A T R
H Z F A T M F A O C A L W O

T A P Q Z L W P Z R

Saturday's Cryptoquip: CUTTHROAT PEACH GROWERS WERE PITTED AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals R

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.