

Who will it be?

Sports Reporter
East End Club face fellow-promotees Bangladesh Boys Club in a play-off match at the Hockey Stadium on October 5 to decide who join Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club in next year's Star Premier Division football league.
The tie, which starts at 3 pm, will be extended to a 20-minute extra period if the scheduled 90 minutes fail to produce any result. And if that also fails, the fate of the encounter will be settled through penalty shoot-outs.
East End and Bangladesh Boys both finished their league engagements with 23 points from 18 outings.

Sonali Bank finish third

Sports Reporter
Sonali Bank Club defeated Bangladesh Bank Club 17-10 including one lone in the third-place decider in the kabaddi league held at the Outer Stadium court yesterday.
The winners led the first half 3-0.

Meanwhile, the final between Mirpur Juba Kalyan Sangha and Azad Sporting Club will be played today at the same venue at 4 PM in the afternoon.
Bashir Ahmed, the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) is likely to witness the match as chief guest and distribute prizes.

Victoria SC's AGM held

Sports Reporter
Mahbubuzzaman and M Shawkat Ali Khan have been elected the president and general secretary of the Victoria Sporting Club's 25-member executive committee for the next two years at the Club's annual general meeting held yesterday.
Al-Haj Mafzur Rahman, Syed Mazharul Haq, M Ashrafuddin, AFM Khalilur Rahman and Abdul Hannan are the vice-presidents of the newly elected body.

New Prime Sports GM appointed

HONG KONG, Oct 2: Kelly Butler has been appointed as the new general manager of Star TV's 24-hour sports channel, Prime Sports, based in Hong Kong.
She takes up her appointment immediately, says a Star TV news release.
Butler will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operation of the channel and developing the broadcast style of the network. She will also hold the duty of acquiring international programming from leading syndicators, broadcasters, and producers worldwide.

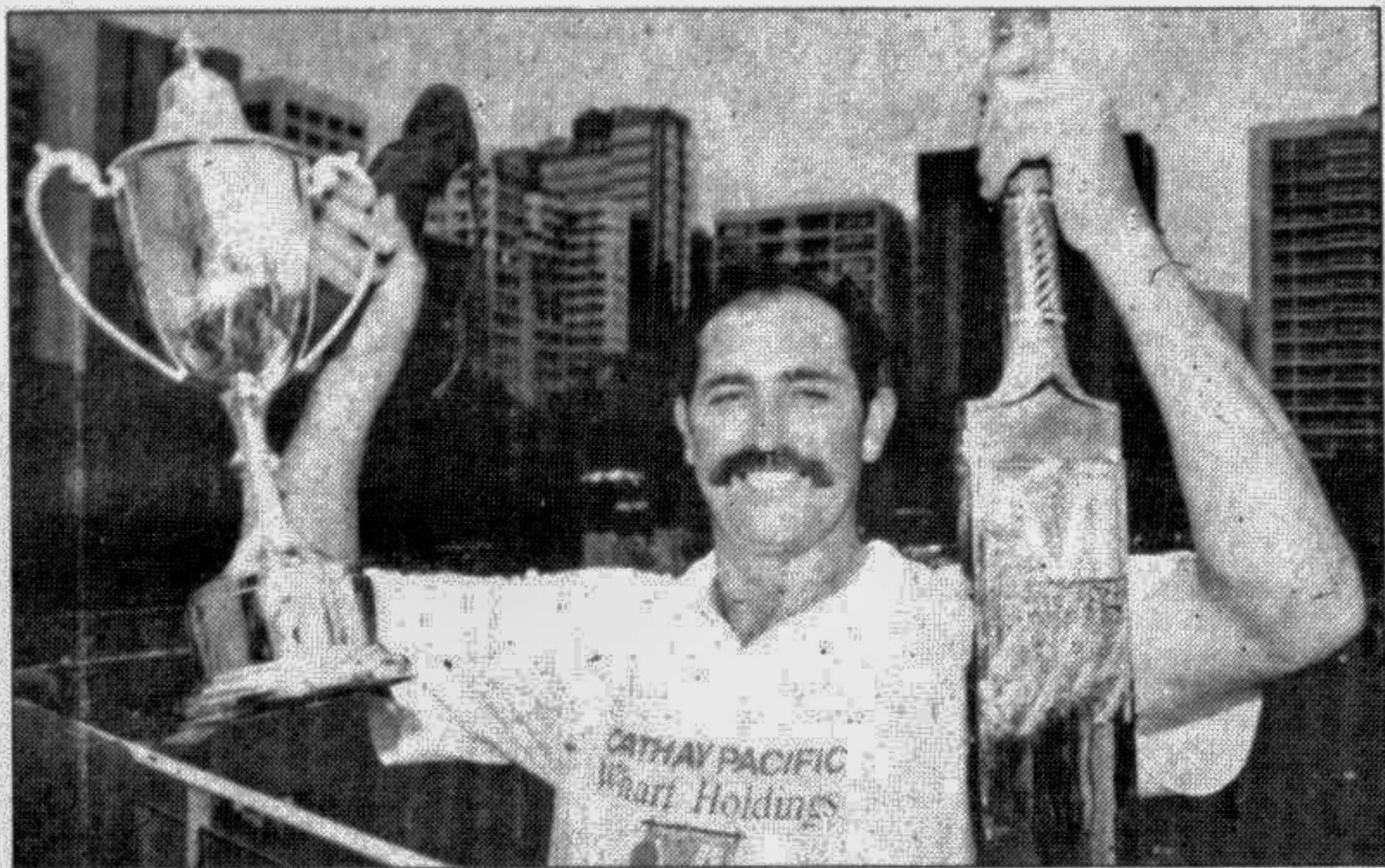
Thai club lift Bordoloi Trophy

GUWAHATI, Oct 2: Port Authority of Bangkok edged past Calcutta's Mohun Bagan Club by a solitary goal to lift the 41st Lokapriya Bordoloi Trophy at the Nehru Stadium here today, reports PTI.

In the final, the Bangkok team skipper Attapol Puspakom scored the winner in the 30th minute of the first half.
The game began on a fast pace and the first fifteen minutes belonged to the Calcutta club, who created several opportunities taking advantage of the poor defence of the Bangkok team, their only weakness displayed in the tournament so far.
Mohun Bagan came close to scoring when the hardworking skipper Bernard, who kept on shifting from the back to the frontline, after receiving a through ball from Abdul Khaleque, dodged past a couple of defenders and shot into the body of the custodian Noman-Jaroon. Referee Sumanta Ghosh ruled a back-kick but the Bagan players insisted that the ball had crossed the goaline.

The Thai team also made a couple of good openings thanks to their pacy strikers Aung Tun Tun, Naron Poonpraboon and Puspakom, who in the 20th minute, took a swinging long ranger to be hastily fisted away by the Bagan goalkeeper Hemanta Dora.
Then in the 30th minute of the first half the only goal of the match, which turned out to be a winner, was scored when, after receiving a loose ball on the left wing, Poonpraboon dodged a defender and the advancing custodian Dora before passing on to Puspakom who had only to tap the ball home.
The Bagan custodian perhaps made a tactical error to rush out of the net too early when there were defenders to do the job.

Although a packed holiday crowd of about 28,000 at the Nehru Stadium expected Mohun Bagan to go all out in the second half, the Calcutta team did just the opposite and the ball remained mostly confined to the midfield for the better part of the game.



A jubilant England captain Graham Gooch has his hands full with the*Hong Kong International Cricket Sixes championship trophy and a golden bat after his squad beat Sri Lanka by three wickets in the final. — AFP photo

England win 2nd Hong Kong Sixes meet as

A native ruffs on return



HONG KONG, Oct 2: War-wickshire captain Dermott Reeve celebrated a happy homecoming as he led an English invitation side to victory over Sri Lanka in the final of the second Hong Kong Sixes here Saturday, reports AFP.

The Hong Kong born Reeve, a last minute replacement for injured teammate John Stephenson played inspiringly in front of his home crowd as England defeated Sri Lanka by three wickets.

Essex pace bowler Stephenson, was cut above his right eye while facing a ball from reserve player Reeve in a warmup session Saturday morning.

Reeve, however, was more than an able replacement, playing a key part in England's defeat of South Africa in the semifinals, and then coming up rumps with a superb all round performance in the final against Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka won their final berth defeating Australia in the semis by 17 runs.

With key batsmen Aravinda de Silva (28 not out), Arjuna Ranatunga (15 not out) and Sanath Jayasuriya (18) in superb form, the Sri Lankan batsmen set England a target of 74 in the allotted five overs.

Reeve, who in his over conceded only nine runs to the hard-hitting De Silva and Jayasuriya, compiled a superb 31 — which included six bound-

daries — as England edged to victory.

"It could have gone either way. It was very close," said former England captain Graham Gooch, who was leading the select team.

Reeve walked in to bat with England precariously placed at 23 for two having lost the wickets of their batsmen in-form, Neil Fairbrother and Phillip DeFreitas.

He quickly got into stride hammering 22 runs in seven balls, including four successive boundaries off Sri Lankan spinner Ruwan Kalpage.

Gooch kept the momentum going hammering fast bowler Dulip Lyanage for two fours and a six in successive balls before being caught at deep extra cover for 27.

With 10 runs needed off the final over, Reeve smashed Sri Lankan skipper Ranatunga for two successive fours, before being forced to retire on 31 according to tournament rules.

Gladstone Small who came in to replace Reeve, missed the fourth ball of Ranatunga's over leaving England to score two runs with two balls remaining.

But he on-drove the next ball past Ranatunga for the winning runs, much to the delight of a big English expatriate crowd at the Kowloon Cricket Club.

"My father was here and he was very nervous. It felt good to have him here and see us win," said a delighted Reeve afterwards.

In the semifinals, England

defeated Clive Rice-led South Africa by 13 runs. England, batting first, posted 79 for one with Neil Fairbrother (34) and Phillip DeFreitas (23) shining.

South Africa were never in the runchase with only Adrian Kuiper clicking to score an unbeaten 33.

Sri Lanka's opening pair, De Silva and Jayasuriya, scored 23 and 29 respectively as they set Australia a daunting target of 79 to win in the other semifinal.

Prolific batsman Mark Waugh was dismissed for 17, to see the Australia slip well behind the run-rate, giving Sri Lanka an easy win.

Earlier in the day, Australia breezed to convincing wins over pre-tournament favourites Pakistan and New Zealand in a round-robin group, and earned the final semifinal berth.

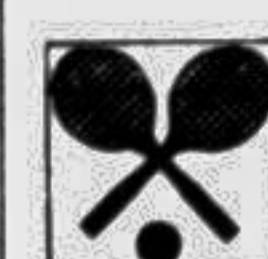
Right hander Waugh led Australia's charge as he thrashed the Kiwi bowling to the tune of 36 runs and then dominated the much-vaunted Pakistani pace attack of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis to finish unbeaten again on 36.

Chasing New Zealand's meagre total of 48 for three, Australia finished on 52 for two to win by four wickets.

They then beat Pakistan by 14 runs to book a berth in the semifinals.

India finished the tournament by winning the Plate competition defeating the West Indies and Hong Kong in a round robin group.

Ivan Lendl given no favours



SYDNEY, Oct 2: Four-time winner Ivan Lendl was given no favours in today's draw for next week's Australian indoor tennis championships when he was paired to face power-serving American Todd Martin in his first match, reports AFP.

Lendl, who has slipped to 15 in the world, is seeded seventh here, but comes up against Martin, who is ranked three spots below the former world No 1 and has accumulated more than 400 aces in tournament play this year.

Organisers are planning a presentation to 33-year-old Lendl to mark his achievement of winning his career 1000th tour match during last year's Australian tournament.

Top seed Jim Courier, surprisingly bundled out of this week's Malaysian open by the Netherlands Jacco Eltingh, is due to take on the winner of the all Australian clash between Todd Woodbridge and Richard Fromberg after his first round.

German Boris Becker, who intends scaling down his tournaments as his fiancée, Barbara, expects their first child in January, is scheduled to

take on Australian Neil Borwick, who was a semifinalist in Kuala Lumpur this week.

Such slams Larsson down

BASEL, Switzerland, Oct 2: Germany's Michael Stich turned avenger at the 800,000 dollar ATP tournament here Friday when he hammered Magnus Larsson of Sweden into straight-sets submission to reach the semifinals, reports AFP.

Twenty-four hours earlier Larsson had inflicted a three-set defeat on Stich's Davis Cup teammate Marc Goellner, but against Stich the Swedish player was never allowed to settle.

Stich raced to a 6-2, 6-1 win.

Stefan Edberg, beaten by both Stich and Goellner in last weekend's Davis Cup semifinal in Sweden, was still struggling to recapture his touch on Friday and once again he dropped a set. He eventually chalked up a 7-6 (7/4), 1-6, 6-4 victory over stylish Israeli Amos Mansdorf.

Czech player Martin Damm ended the excellent run on Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch by recovering to score an exciting 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (8/6) win.

Defending champion and world No 9 Goran Ivanisevic, expected to be fired up by his legion of vociferous local Croatians, is drawn to meet Australian Davis Cup member Jason Stoltenberg first up.

Their match is likely to be held over until Tuesday to grant Stoltenberg, who won both his singles matches in Australia's 5-0 semifinal rout of India in Chandigarh last week, time to recover from a finger injury sustained in the Malaysian Open.

Dutchman Richard Krajicek, the fifth seed here, is set for a battle of the ballistic servers in his encounter with Australian Jamie Morgan, who crashed out of last month's US Open to countryman Wally Masur after being on the verge of victory in the fifth set of their quarter-final.

Between them, Krajicek and Morgan, have served almost 1,000 aces on this year's tour.

Third-seeded Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev takes on a qualifier in the first round and is likely to face the winner of Mark Woodforde Jonas Svensson match in the second round.



Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan shakes hands with a young gymnast during the certificate-giving ceremony of the three-month gymnastic course at the National Sports Council yesterday. — Star photo

Chang, Svensson in Salem Open final

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2: American Michael Chang and Sweden's Jonas Svensson won berths Saturday night for the final of the dlr\$ 300,000 Malaysia Salem Open tennis championship, reports AP.

The doubles finals Sunday will be between Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands and Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden and Lars Wahlgren of Sweden.

Chang, seeking his fifth title this year, played aggressive tennis to crush Grant Stafford of South Africa 6-1, 6-3 in the semifinals.

Svensson was stretched into a gruelling tie before winning over Australian Neil Borwick 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in the other semifinals.

It will be the fourth encounter for both Chang and Svensson with the American holding the edge in all the previous three matches, twice in 1988 and once in 1991.

"My last three meetings with Svensson were really tough and I expect another tough time against him tomorrow," said Chang, currently No 8 in the world.

"It was really a good match for me. I got better and better after every game and I hope to do even better against Svensson tomorrow," said Chang.

Svensson said, "In the beginning I came in on everything. The first two matches I passed very well, he started to throw up high balls and wait for me to do something."

Meanwhile, Sunday's doubles finals will see the Dutch pair of Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, the top seed, taking on Swedish pair of Jonas Bjorkman and Lars Wahlgren.

In the doubles Eltingh and Haarhuis, ranked number 21, brushed aside the pair of Greg Rusedski of Canada and Jamie Yzaga 6-4, 6-3 in Saturday night's semifinals.

In the doubles semifinals Bjorkman and Wahlgren, the third seed, had defeated Jeremy Bates of Britain and Christo Van Rensburg of South Africa 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 Friday.

Indonesians dominate rankings

CHELTENHAM, England, Oct 2: Indonesia once again dominate the latest world badminton singles rankings issued here on Friday, reports AFP.

World men's champion Joko Suprianto and Susi Susanti, the outstanding female singles player, retain their positions at the head of the listings.

Suprianto is even followed by three of his compatriots in Olympic gold medalist Allan Budi Kusuma, Ardy Wiranata and Heryanto Arbi.

The women's top 10 is more multi-national, though with China, South Korea, Sweden and Denmark, all having representatives.

Leading singles rankings:
Men: 1. Joko Suprianto (Indonesia), 2. Allan Budi Kusuma (Indonesia), 3. Ardy Wiranata (Indonesia), 4. Heryanto Arbi (Indonesia), 5. Paul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen (Denmark), 6. Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen (Denmark), 7. Wu Wenka (China), 8. Hermawan Susanto (Indonesia), 9. Rashid Sidek (Malaysia), 10. Fung Permadi (Indonesia).
Women: 1. Susi Susanti (Indonesia), 2. Ye Zhaoying (China), 3. Sang Soo-Hyun (S Korea), 4. Lim Xiaoning (Sweden), 5. Sarwendah Kusumawardhani (Indonesia), 6. Camilla Martin (Denmark), 7. Lee Heung-Soon (S Korea), 8. Tang Jiahong (China), 9. Yuliani Santoso (Indonesia), 10. Yao Yan (China).

Hong Kong's largest ever

VICTORIA, Canada, Oct 2: Hong Kong is likely to field a record number of athletes at next year's Commonwealth Games — the colony's probable last appearance in the quadrennial event, reports AFP.

Games federation Chairman Sony de O Sales said Friday that he expected just under 100 Hong Kong athletes to be in Victoria, the British Columbia capital.

This compared with 70 or 80 so in Auckland, at the 1990 Commonwealth games," said De O Sales, adding it would be the crown colony's biggest turnout so far.

De O Sales, 73, who has represented Hong Kong in the Commonwealth Games Federation in a variety of capacities since 1954, is currently chairman of the federation.

Lightning kills four booters

KUALA LUMPUR Oct 2: Four soccer players were killed and two others injured when a bolt of lightning struck during a match, newspapers reported Saturday, reports AP.

The other sixteen players, referee and two line-men suffered from shock in the incident Thursday evening in Sungkai, 250 kilometres (150 miles) north of the capital, the Star and other dailies reported.



World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Lennox Lewis celebrates after stopping fellow-Briton Frank Bruno in the 7th round of their title bout in Cardiff early yesterday. It was Lewis' second successful title defence. — AFP photo

Lewis dusts Bruno's jacket



CARDIFF, Oct 2: Lennox Lewis raised more questions than he answered today when he stopped Frank Bruno in the seventh round to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight title, reports Reuter.

Bruno put up his usual courageous but predictably one-dimensional performance in what was probably the final fight of his 11-year career.

But despite his transparent limitations, Bruno managed to rock Lewis in the third round with a left, then a right to the head and he was ahead on one of the judge's cards when referee Mickey Vann stopped the fight after one minute 10 seconds of the seventh round.

"It was pretty average," Lewis conceded. "I went in a little cold. As the rounds went on, I started to get warm and Bruno started to slow down."

Bruno, moving doggedly forward, took the fight to Lewis from the start on mercifully dry, cool night after a week of steady rain which had threatened to disrupt the open-air bout at Cardiff Arms Park.

Lewis riposted with stinging left jabs to Bruno's face and taunted his fellow-Briton by ostentatiously dropping his guard.

"Lewis took the first round, but conceded the second when Bruno again took the offensive with Lewis content to backpedal and try to score with his left jab."

The fight came alive in the third round when Bruno, the clear favourite among the crowd of about 25,000, connected with a right to Lewis's head. Lewis smiled, but it was obvious the blow had left its mark.

"He didn't hurt me," Lewis maintained. But Bruno added: "I didn't catch him properly. If I had caught him properly, it would have been a different fight."

The punch certainly persuaded Lewis to treat Bruno with more respect and the next three rounds saw him concentrate on his superior speed and reflexes as he attempted to find a way through Bruno's rudimentary defences.

The chance came in the seventh after Bruno had gone on to the attack. He dropped his guard, Lewis responded with a vicious left hook and followed up with some swift combinations to the head as Bruno rocked back on to the ropes.

As Lewis tried to set up the punch that would end the fight, Vann intervened to warn him for holding.

But it was painfully obvious that Bruno was now finished. His legs were wobbling and he

was barely able to keep his arms up as Vann stepped forward again and stopped the fight.

"I saw him drop his right hand and just came out with my left hook," Lewis said. "A lot of people didn't realise I had a left hook."

There is no doubting Lewis's ability to hit fast and potentially with both hands.

But for fighter so clearly more gifted than Bruno, he was far from convincing during the early stages in his defensive work and the contest, staged in the early hours especially for US television, will not have convinced the Americans that he is the true heavyweight champion of the world.

Now the unbeaten Lewis will fight World Boxing Organisation (WBO) champion Tommy Morrison before a possible unification bout with Riddick Bowe, the man who gave up the WBC belt soon after winning it rather than make an early mandatory defence against Lewis.

Bruno, who has now lost four of his 40 fights, said he would consult his wife and children before deciding on his future.

"I'll just wait and see," he said. "I thought, I did bloody well. I'm a proud, proud, proud hombre."

A Jackson wins in the end



BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Oct 2: Challenger John David Jackson of the United States won the World

Boxing Association's middleweight title from fellow-American Reggie Jackson on an unanimous decision after 12 rounds of Friday, reports Reuter.

The older, slimmer Jackson, who once held the World Boxing Organisation's title, outboxed Johnson, making his fourth defence.

Two judges awarded the fight to the 30-year-old Jackson by 115 points to 114, while the third judge's card was 115-113 for the new Champions.

Johnson, 27, dominated the first half of the bout, but lost that ground in the final six rounds.

In the seventh, referee Oscar Coronel penalised Johnson with a point off for punching below the belt. In the eighth, the former champion was again warned about his low blows.

The challenger took the lead

in the following round, when he sent Johnson to the mat with a left uppercut to the jaw.

In the next two rounds, the Nakamura leads Japan's fight-back

HAMILTON, Ontario, Oct 2: Yoshio Nakamura, the 1991 Asian Games gold medalist, won the Under-8 kg class to lead Japan's fight-back on the second day of the World Judo Championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

After four titles had been decided on the opening day without the inventors of the sport taking one of them, Nakamura threw Nicolas Gill of Canada to the mat in the final for ippon (full point) with uchimata (inner thigh throw).

However, his compatriot, Hidehiko Yoshida, the Olympic Under-78 kg champion, fought with a damaged hip and although he reached the final, was thrown for wazari (half a point) by the winner Ki Young-Chun of South Korea.

A euphoric Jackson, who said he felt Argentina was now his second home, told a television interviewer: "I want to thank all the people who made this possible. This is my happiest day in my 20 years of boxing."

The loser, when asked what he thought of the fight, said: "I really thought I had won this one."

Jackson, who has never been defeated as a professional, has now won 30 fights.

Johnson's record stands at 34 victories, three defeats and one draw.

New drive in drug docimasy

VICTORIA, Canada, Oct 2: Organisers of next year's Commonwealth Games will increase the number of dope tests on athletes, but end gender-testing, officials said Friday, reports AFP.

Dr Geoffrey Haigh, the official responsible for the overall drug-testing programme, said organisers expected to conduct about 500 drug tests on athletes — a 25 per cent increase compared to the Auckland Commonwealth Games in 1990.

The increase, he said, was due primarily to an increase in the number of athletes expected to compete in Victoria.

The drug testing will cost the organisers approximately 200,000 Canadian dollars (about 150,000 US), he said, even though all samples will have to be flown to a Canadian government financed Sport Drug Testing Centre in Montreal.

Montreal has one of only two drug testing centres in North America, recognised by the International Olympic Committee (the other is in Los Angeles).

Dr Norgrove Penny, chief medical officer for the Victoria Games, said, "Despite a likely 72-hour delay in confirming positive drug tests, it was cheaper to fly urine samples to

Montreal than set up a self-contained testing centre in Victoria."

Officials said the only positive drug tests in the Commonwealth Games were

Sethi's superb showing
BOMBAY, India, Oct 2: India's Geet Sethi began his defence of the world professional billiards title in impressive fashion, swamping Welsh champion Clive Everton by over a thousand points, reports AFP.

The 32-year-old Sethi outclassed Everton 1685-563 late Friday in the inaugural match of the five-day World Championships that opened at a downtown hotel amidst the shattering news of Thursday's monster quake.

Organisers, players and spectators observed a minute's silence before Sethi took the table against the 56-year-old Everton.

The Indian struck from straight away, posting four century breaks including a 279 on his 15th visit against the off-form Welshman.

Sethi's opponent in the quarter-final will be eighth seeded compatriot Michael Ferreira, who celebrated his 55th birthday with a fluent 1,122-912 win over fellow Indian Nalin Patel.

defender desperately tried to demolish Jackson with a definitive punch, but could never pin him down as the challenger slithered out of his reach.

Johnson made a last stand in the 12th round. While the crowd chanted "Jackson, Jackson," the defender charge blindly after his opponent, who simply sidestepped the lunging champion and threw elegant but harmless jabs.

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wealth Games so far were recorded in Auckland where three weightlifters (two Welsh and one Indian) were disqualified for using banned substances.

Haigh said he expected the Commonwealth Games Federation, at its annual meeting here today, to agree to a constitutional change which would end controversial gender-testing of female athletes.

He said gender-testing had been discredited as totally unnecessary and he had informed the Commonwealth Games Federation last year of his intention to propose a change of rules to end it, starting with the Victoria Games.

So far, he said, he had not heard of any opposition to his proposal.

This would make the Commonwealth Games the first multi-sport international event to end gender-testing, he said, although the International Amateur Athletics Federation had already stopped the practice which many female athletes have found to be demanding and embarrassing.

"The International Olympic Committee still has gender-testing," he said. "But it is very slow to change."

"We would like to take the lead in this."