

Wang wins Jesse Owens award

NEW YORK, Jan 14: China's Wang Junxia, who shattered world records at 10,000 and 3,000 metres last September, on Thursday was named winner of the 1994 Jesse Owens International Trophy award, reports Reuter.

Wang is the first Asian to win the honour, presented annually to the athlete who best personifies excellence in athletic performance.

In a span of just six days, in September, Wang broke the 10,000 metres world record, twice set the 3,000 metres world mark and ran the second fastest ever 1,500 metres.

She finished with 134 points in voting by an international panel of electors, beating out American sprinter and hurdler Gail Devers and Algerian middle distance runner Nouredine Morceli.

The announcement of this year's winner was made by 1948 Olympic long jump bronze medalist Herbert Douglas Jr. president of the International Amateur Athletic Association and founder of the award.

Last year the Jesse Owens award went to Olympic champion gymnast Vitaly Scherbo of Ukraine.

Sanders retires

PALO ALTO, California, Jan 14: Double Olympic champion Summer Sanders on Thursday said she is retiring from competitive swimming, reports Reuter.

The 21-year-old Sanders scooped up four medals at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, including gold in the 200-metre butterfly and 4x100 medley relay.

"This was not a spontaneous decision," said Sanders, who also took home silver in the 200-metre individual medley and bronze in the 400 m from Barcelona.

"After taking off last summer I realised that there's life outside of swimming," Sanders said.

"When I returned in the fall, I didn't have the same goals and competitive drive that I've had in the past. I wasn't the same swimmer."

Sanders, a senior at Stanford University, led her school to a US Collegiate Swimming Championship and twice was named NCAA swimmer-of-the-year.

Two-year ban for doping a must

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Jan 14: All sports will have to operate a two-year ban for drug use if they want to be a part of the Olympic Games, sports chiefs decided here Thursday, reports AFP.

Representatives of 34 Olympics sports — except cycling — agreed to the two-year ban.

Eagles and Lions hobbled by cash problems

Cameroon's spectacular success at Italia '90 ensured that African soccer is longer dismissed as a novelty. But when Cameroon and Nigeria take to the field in the 1994 World Cup in the United States in June, reports Gemini News Service, they may have already faced their toughest battles.

By Phil Minshall



For two of the three African teams which have fought their way into the World Cup soccer contest in the United States in June, the toughest battles may come before a ball has been kicked.

Socrates, the great Brazilian star of a decade ago, once said: "Too many pitches are becoming battlefields." Unfortunately for Africa's top teams, too many battles are still having to be won off the pitch to give them a realistic chance of capturing the ultimate prize.

The biggest battle at the moment is money, or the lack of it.

The Super Eagles of Nigeria are already in disarray, though they are rated Africa's best prospect and must be reasonably happy to find themselves facing Argentina, Bulgaria and Greece in their opening round.

A squad of mainly European-based professionals, Nigeria is one of the tournament's outsiders, while their two European opponents are among the weakest in the final 24 and Argentina is only a shadow of the side that went to the final four years ago in Italy.

But team captain Stephen Keshi has more immediate problems to contend with. "We don't have quality jerseys and track suits. We hardly get boots to wear," he complains.

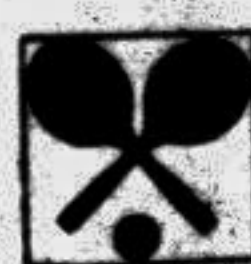
"We know what other players receive in other countries. Our match bonuses are not paid, some players have to buy their own tickets and refunds are not forthcoming," he moaned to local journalists.

Wealthy businessman and sports philanthropist Moshood Abiola, widely regarded as the winner of the annulled June presidential election in Nigeria, promised the Super Eagles squad \$100,000, but with the



Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina serves to Germany's Barbara Rittner during their quarter-final match at the New South Wales Open in Sydney yesterday. Sabatini won 6-1, 6-3. —AFP photo

It's always hard to say 'bye



SYDNEY, Jan 14: Sport's golden rule is "It ain't over till it's over" and no-one clings to that maxim lighter than the modern tennis professional, reports Reuter.

For the stars who travel the globe, inhabit the best hotels and attract worldwide fame there are two words they dare not utter. The bigger the name, the harder it is to say "I quit".

Bjorn Borg's notably unsuccessful comeback, instead of persuading dozens of fading pros to toss their rackets on the fire at Christmas, seems to be having the opposite effect in Australia this month.

Mats Wilander claims he's back. Pat Cash is determined to prove he can win again. Pam Shriver simply can't bring herself to give up and then there's Ivan Lendl who still treats the idea of retirement as if it were a deadly virus.

The quartet between them have won an astonishing 283 singles and doubles titles over the past 15 years. More pertinently, they have raked in almost 35 million dollars in prize money alone and plenty more in endorsements. Nest-eggs don't come any bigger but life after tennis is still hard to come to terms with.

"When something enters my life that makes me want to stop playing I'll stop," said Wilander this week, reflecting on a dismal 6-2, 6-1 loss to Lendl in the opening round of the New South Wales Open.

The Swede disappeared from view in 1991, admitting to a loss of motivation after reaching the world number one position in 1988. Injuries and a stint as a touring rock musician now behind him, he is hoping for a second career at the age of 29.

"Why did I come back? I was missing playing a little bit. I also realised I'm not going to be as good at anything else as I am at tennis. The days you perfect the game it's a great feeling."

How long will this rekindled love affair last? "I don't have all the answers yet. I couldn't tell you if it's going to be next week or years."

"I'm not like Borg. I feel like I'm still not the oldest guy out there. He is."

Cash, out for 15 months with serious knee trouble, is equally intent on returning, although a back injury forced him to decline the wildcard offered to him for next week's Australian Open.

"If I don't win a match in six months, it doesn't matter," he said. "I've worked through it, put up with the frustrations. I'm not going to give it away now."

The 28-year-old Australian insists that "the motivation has to come from the inside" but for Shriver the problem is letting go.

"I can see the finish line," admitted the 31-year-old American. "Even when I win these days it's close but I still enjoy a lot of the life and the travel."

It's the start of my 17th year and although full-time singles is getting very hard, I think I'd find it hard to cut the tour and singles at the same time. It's a dilemma to say when the end will come."

Shriver has yet to sign up for any tournaments beyond Beijing in mid-February but the sight of her contemporary Tracy Austin returning to Grand Slam competition in Melbourne may give her another reason to hang on.

And then there is Lendl, still driven at almost 34 despite being close to dropping out of the world's top 20.

The Czech-born American citizen knows it is getting tougher to hold his own but still relishes the challenge.

"Ivan looks as though he's enjoying it very much. He enjoys being very physically fit," said Wilander. "I'm not really a workaholic in the way he is."

Lendl has committed himself to playing until the end of the year but, when he does go, he insists there will be no backward glances. He has little sympathy for the likes of Wilander, Cash, Shriver and Austin, apparently still searching for tennis immortality.

"I will go away eventually but I'm not going to be coming back. If you don't play for two or three years, it's too tough. You're trying to simply get back to where you were, while everyone else has improved. I don't think it's possible to come back," he said.

because some of the stadium's stands have subsided and large cracks have opened up.

For Africa's third team, Morocco, the problem is not so much money as inexperience, though the Lions of the Atlas pioneered the way in 1986 when they became the first team from the continent to progress into the second round.

The Lions of the Atlas will have been grimacing when they heard they had drawn Belgium and Holland, although a good win against their third opponents, rank outsiders Saudi Arabia, might be enough to see them into the next round.

But most of the young squad have little international experience. The only North African side going to America just scraped through by beating Zambia in their last game. Zambia had built their team from scratch after the national squad was killed in air crash last April.

The current coach, Abdellah Blinda, was appointed only on the eve of the Zambian match and is still getting to know his players and trying to find a blend between European-based players such as Abdellah Nacer and Mohammed Chaouch, who play in Belgium and France respectively, and home-based stars including goalkeeper Khalid Azmi and midfielder Rachid Daoudi.

However, Morocco may yet prove to be a surprise package. Within weeks of qualifying, the Royal Moroccan Football Federation announced a programme of matches to galvanise the team. The players have already pocketed nearly \$8,500 each and will get bigger bonuses for good results in the US. —GEMINI NEWS

About the Author: Phil Minshall is a British journalist and broadcaster with a special interest in African sport.

Ondieki Kenya's sportsman-of-year

NAIROBI, Jan 14: Yobes Ondieki, the first man to run 10,000 under 27 minutes, was named as Kenya's sportsman-of-the-year on Thursday at a ceremony shunned by the country's best distance runners, reports Reuter.

Ondieki, who will be 33 next month, won the vote against Ishmael Kirui and his elder brother Richard Chelimo, who were second and third respectively.

Ondieki beat the 27-minute barrier for the 25-lap race when he clocked 26 mins 58.38 seconds at Oslo on July 10 last year. His time was 10 better than the world record set by Chelimo just five days previously.

Sports Journalists and administrators named 15-year-old Selinah Barsosio, who won a bronze medal in the 10,000 metres at the World Championships in Stuttgart last year, as sportswoman-of-the-year.

The winning athletes were not present at the ceremony. Organisers said they sent out early invitations but Kenya's top sports men and women often ignored such functions because of scant government recognition and the lack of financial rewards for them.

Kenya also launched its sports Hall of Fame for the highest achievement and the legendary Kipchoge Keino was the first inductee.

Keino, who will be 54 on Monday, won the 1500 metres at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics and the 3,000 metres steeplechase at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

He also won Commonwealth and African titles and re-wrote the record books for middle distance running in the 1960s and 1970s.

Fatal imitation

BONN, Jan 14: A deaf and dumb woman thrust a long kitchen knife into a soccer player at a tournament on Wednesday because she wanted to copy the stabbing of tennis star Monica Seles last April, German police said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The 28-year-old woman, who was arrested immediately after the attack on Hamburg player Oliver Moeller at a Stuttgart indoor tournament, wanted to become famous with the copy-cat attack which Germany's top sports official described as the action of a sick person.

"At this stage of the investigation it looks a copy-cat attack," Stuttgart police spokesman Edgar Steinbrenner said.

She knows about the Seles attack and it seems she wanted to get publicity."

German Sports Federation (DSV) president Hans Hansen added: "Experience has shown that whenever some sort of attack happens, unfortunately there is someone else who wants to copy... these people are ill. They are confused in their minds."

"There is the danger of copy-cat effect... we have to live with it."

Moeller, 25, was rushed to hospital after the woman thrust a 20-cm knife into his back while he was sitting in the main stand watching a match in the tournament.

After an operation on Wednesday night, hospital officials said the player's life was not in danger but the knife had pierced his diaphragm and scratched his liver.

Graf puts it in perspective



MELBOURNE, Jan 14: World No. 1 Steffi Graf does not fear for her safety going into next week's Australian Open following a rash of recent attacks on sports stars around the world, reports AFP.

Graf is the red-hot favourite to lift her fourth Australian Open crown, in the continued absence of her great rival Monica Seles, who is still recovering from a knife attack during a German tournament last April.

In recent days American Olympic figure skater Nancy Kerrigan and German soccer player Oliver Moller have also been attacked.

"It's not a cancer. You can't keep worrying all your life

about what can happen," Graf said here today.

Graf said she had noticed an increase in security around the courts over the last year.

"It's sad. It's a shame that these things keep happening," she said.

"Sometimes you expect to have the worst coming."

The absence of Seles leaves another Grand Slam title beckoning for Graf, who won last year's French Open, Wimbledon and US Open in the wake of her rival's setback.

Graf has won 14 Grand Slams in her 12 years on the circuit. Prior to her stabbing, Seles had won six of the seven Grand Slam tournaments she had contested, losing to Graf in the 1992 Wimbledon final.

"We're all disappointed. It's

a sad thing she's still missing," Graf said.

"It's been eight or nine months and hopefully she will be back soon. I expected her to play here."

Graf rates Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Gabriela Sabatini, Jana Novotna and Mary Pierce as her main opponents over the next fortnight.

Despite having won the Grand Slam in 1988 and all the majors several times over Graf said she was still motivated to improve her game.

"The only goal I have left is to get better," she said.

"I have won all the tournaments but I just love the game. The main thing I am working on is my physical condition and maybe coming in (to the net) a little more than usual."

Courier's course will be tough



MELBOURNE, Jan 14: Jim Courier faces a tough fight to retain his Australian Open men's singles title once the tournament begins on Monday, reports Reuter.

American Courier, champion in 1992 and 1993, is seeded third this time and is likely to have to beat both world number one Pete Sampras and big serving Goran Ivanisevic if he wants to reach the final again.

Chang cruises home

JAKARTA, Jan 14: US player Michael Chang beat Morocco's Youness El Aynaoui Friday in straight sets 6-3, 6-3 to clinch a berth in the finals at the 300,000 dollar 1994 Indonesian Open men's tennis championship here, reports AFP.



Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona (L) hugs former American basketball star Earvin Magic Johnson (R) prior to an exhibition game by Johnson's team, the 'All Stars' at Maradona's club Newell's Old Boys on Jan 12. —AFP photo

'Magic' is safe

JAKARTA, Jan 14: Indonesian authorities believe there is no need for 'special surveillance' of US basketball star Earvin 'Magic' Johnson, who will play in an exhibition game here next month, the Health Minister said Friday, reports AFP.

According to the Antara news agency, Health Minister Suyudi said Johnson, who is infected by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which leads to AIDS, already knows how to conduct himself, "so we do not need to give him special surveillance."

He did not elaborate, or say if there had been calls to watch the basketball player closely.

"We should welcome him warmly because he will give information to the society on the danger of AIDS," Suyudi said, adding that he was certain Johnson's visit would boost efforts here to prevent Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Johnson had a brilliant professional basketball career before being forced into retirement by his HIV infection.

Magic Johnson's All Stars basketball team will arrive February 24 for a four-day tour during which they will play an exhibition game to raise funds to fight AIDS.

The All Stars will face the 1992 Australian basketball league runner-up, the Perth-based Wildcats, February 26 and 27.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Frequently, in verse
4 Bases on balls
9 Telly inits.
12 Use 17
13 Expiate
14 Actor
15 Type of women carpet
17 Crew-need
18 Shell-game cache
19 Sorcerer
21 Caution lights' colors
24 Only slightly
25 Remote
26 Witness
28 Salts city
31 EPA concern
33 Director Peckinpah
35 Father
36 "— to please"
38 Laura Petrie's hubby
40 Margery of rhyme

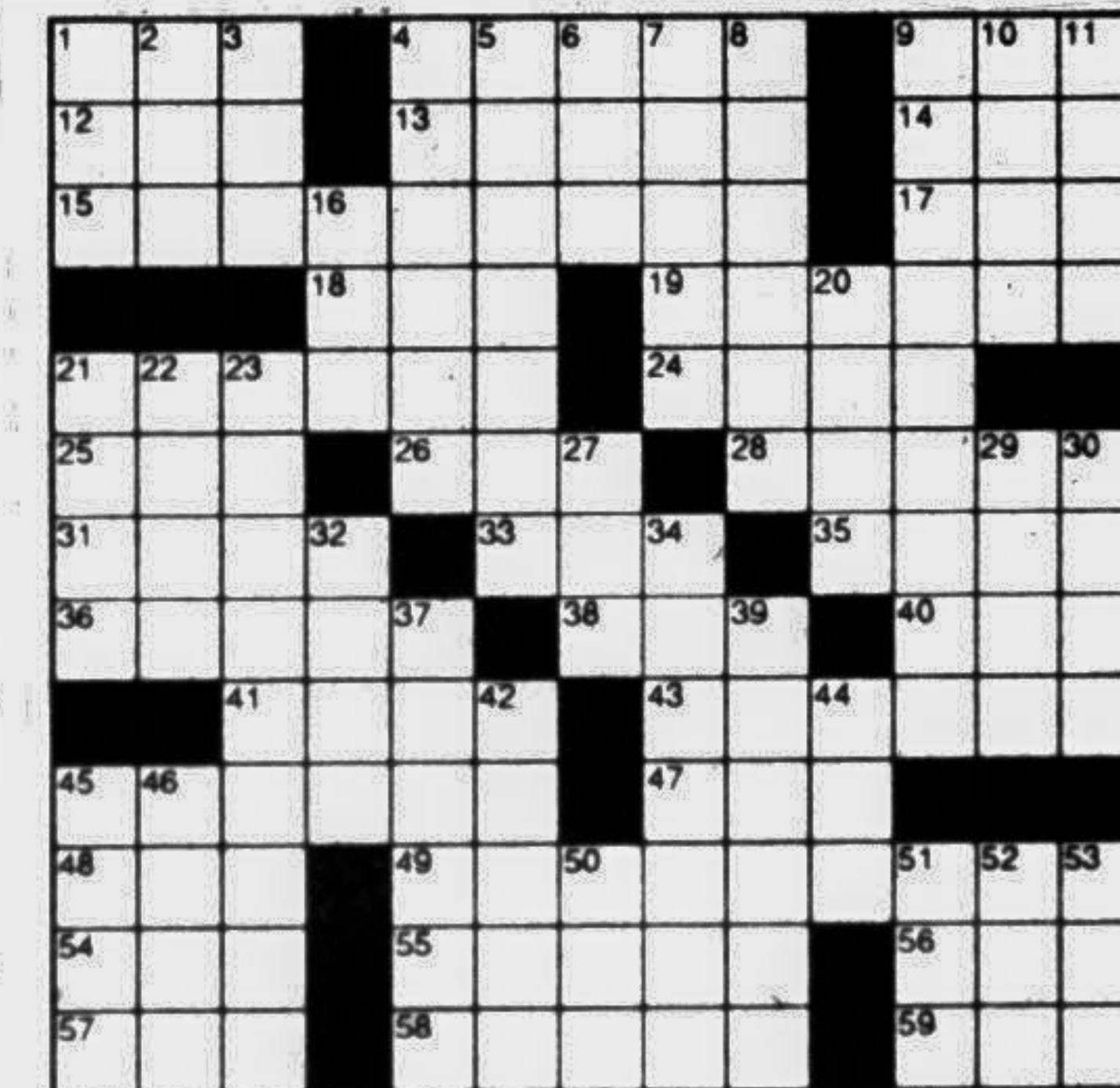
DOWN

41 Small drink
43 Library offerings
45 Noted jockey
47 Numerical prefix
48 Ms. Farrow
49 Medieval weapons
54 Fool
55 Sill
56 "Rocks"
57 Bottom line
58 One of the Plinys
59 Boston squad, for short
DOWN
1 Sphere
2 Backing
3 Teeter-
16 Zoo favorite
20 Uses a ray gun
21 "— Good Men" (movie)
22 Nutmeg's kin
23 Air
27 Music appreciation
29 Exam type
30 Kittens' comments
32 Italian bread?
34 Composite picture
37 Sculptor's medium
39 Abut
42 Mushroom type
44 Through
45 "— for All Seasons"
46 Respond to yeast
50 Un-matched
51 Greek consonants
52 Author Umberto
53 Dr. Westheimer's topic

Solution time: 27 min.

DOT JAMB FRET
IOU OPTIE LODI
ANT SHEA OPEN
LAUGHINGHYENA
RED LID
NOMAD WET BAT
OBEY LAS ZOLA
WIG FAX WIZEN
SOW KAN
THECRYINGGAME
HOPE ELAN CON
UPIN RIVE MOI
DICE SEER END

Saturday's answer 6-7



CRYPTOQUIP

R N U C H H R U T I U V U Y
M U W T M R V U M I V D Y L E U Y
W E V D M M M R C R E N
Saturday's Cryptogram: ALTHOUGH WE COULDN'T AFFORD THE CLOTHING, WE TRIED THEM ON FOR SIGHS.

Today's Cryptogram clue: T equals M

The Cryptogram 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.