

# Norway nestled at the top

**LILLEHAMMER, Feb 14:** Norwegians spend eight months of the year on skis and it showed on Monday when Thomas Alsgaard claimed their second gold medal of these Winter Olympics and Lasse Kjus was poised to win a third, reports AFP.

Kyle Heikkila spends most of his time windsurfing off the islands of St Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

But today, on the coldest day of the Games, he achieved the best result ever by someone from a snowless country when he finished 23rd out of 33 in the men's luge.

"Most people back home know each other so they're kind of used to us doing this sort of thing," said the 22-year-old Marine Biology student.

And his team-mate Ann Abernathy, oldest competitor at 40, was fastest in training for the women's luge.

Georg Hackl, a 27-year-old German soldier, won the event to become the first man to retain and Olympic Toboggan title.

Alsgaard won the 30km freestyle cross country skiing race held in mind-numbing cold. Some of the competitors needed to be revived at the finish.

Norwegians had not won an Olympic cross-country title for 16 years before cleaning up on the Les Saissies trails two years ago.

Alsgaard, a triple gold medalist at the 1991 World Junior Championships, already represents a new generation of Norwegian skiers.

He beat compatriot Bjorn Daehlie, who won three gold medals two years ago, by a huge 47 seconds.

Vegard Ulvang, another triple gold medalist from the Albertville Games, is holding himself in reserve for the 50km classic which brings the Games to a close.

Vladimir Smirnov, the Siberian who lives in Sweden and races for Kazakhstan, again disappointed.

Four wins in five World Cup races this season seemed to indicate he would at last break his championship duck but he staggered in 10th.

Kjus, the world champion, was fastest in the downhill part of the Alpine combined today and the only man who looks capable of beating him in

the slalom in 11 days, time is his compatriot Kjetil-Andre Aamodt.

Aamodt, silver medalist in Sunday's downhill, was 0.54 second slower and he could not make up that kind of difference in last year's World Championships in Japan.

Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, five-times World Cup

to get among the medals in the men's 500m speed skating event.

Jansen, the only man to have broken 36 sec, missed medals in 1988 and 1992 when he was a favourite on both occasions.

Alexandr Goulubev and Sergei Klevchenya went one-two to win Russia's first-ever



Thomas Alsgaard of Norway speeds to win the men's 30km cross country event in Lillehammer yesterday. His compatriot Bjorn Daehlie became second and Finland's Mika Myllylae third. —AFP photo

champion, looks like him will have to wait for Thursday's super giant slalom for a realistic shot at an Olympic gold medal.

He had 66 hundredths of a second to make up in the combined after a disappointing downhill.

Italian superstar Alberto Tomba does not ski downhills and will not actually get here until Friday for next week's giant slalom.

Dan Jansen's Olympic misery continued when the American world record holder failed to set a time fast enough

winter olympic medals.

**MEDALS TABLE**  
Medals table after competition here Monday in the 1994 Winter Olympics.

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Norway	2	3	0	5
Russia	1	2	1	4
Italy	1	0	1	2
USA	1	0	0	1
Germany	1	0	0	1
Austria	0	1	0	1
Canada	0	0	1	1
Netherlands	0	0	1	1
Finland	0	0	1	1
Japan	0	0	1	1

## Clinton's kudos for Moe

**HOT SPRINGS, Ark, Feb 14:** Calling from his limousine on the way to a golf outing Sunday, President Clinton congratulated skier Tommy Moe for winning the United States' first gold medal in the 1994 Winter Olympics, reports AP.

"I told him America is proud of him," the president said. Clinton said he had not witnessed Moe's award-winning performance in the downhill ski race, but planned to "watch it on the news."

Calling out to reporters after lunch at a friend's house, Clinton said the call was arranged when his wife called from Norway with the news.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is heading the US delegation to the Games in Lillehammer, Norway. A traffic jam caused her to miss Moe's effort, which gave the United States its first Alpine skiing gold medal in 10 years.

The president's trip to hot Springs was his first to his home state since the Jan 6 funeral for his mother, Virginia Kelley.

Clinton spent Saturday evening at the home of his stepfather, Dick Kelley, and spent Sunday morning going through his mother's mementoes and talking with his brother, Roger, and Kelley.

Later in the day, Clinton jogged through a nearby park, ignoring reporters' questions on policy issues.

Then, Clinton teed off at the belvedere Golf Club. He was joined by his stepfather and longtime friend Webb Hubble, who is now an associate attorney general.

Although Clinton did not let serious issues interfere with a weekend of reminiscence and relaxation, others in the presidential entourage kept working.

## Symbolic

**LILLEHAMMER, Feb 14:** Ten youngsters from Palestine and Israel were due to visit Winter Games sites on Monday, organisers said, reports AP.

The 10 youngsters between 16 and 17 years old were selected by the sister organisations of the Red Cross in the Middle East, the Palestinian Red Crescent and the Red Shield of David in Israel.

The late Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, who helped broker the Israel-PLO peace accord, wanted to bring together young people from both sides of the Middle East conflict to be a symbol of the development in the region.

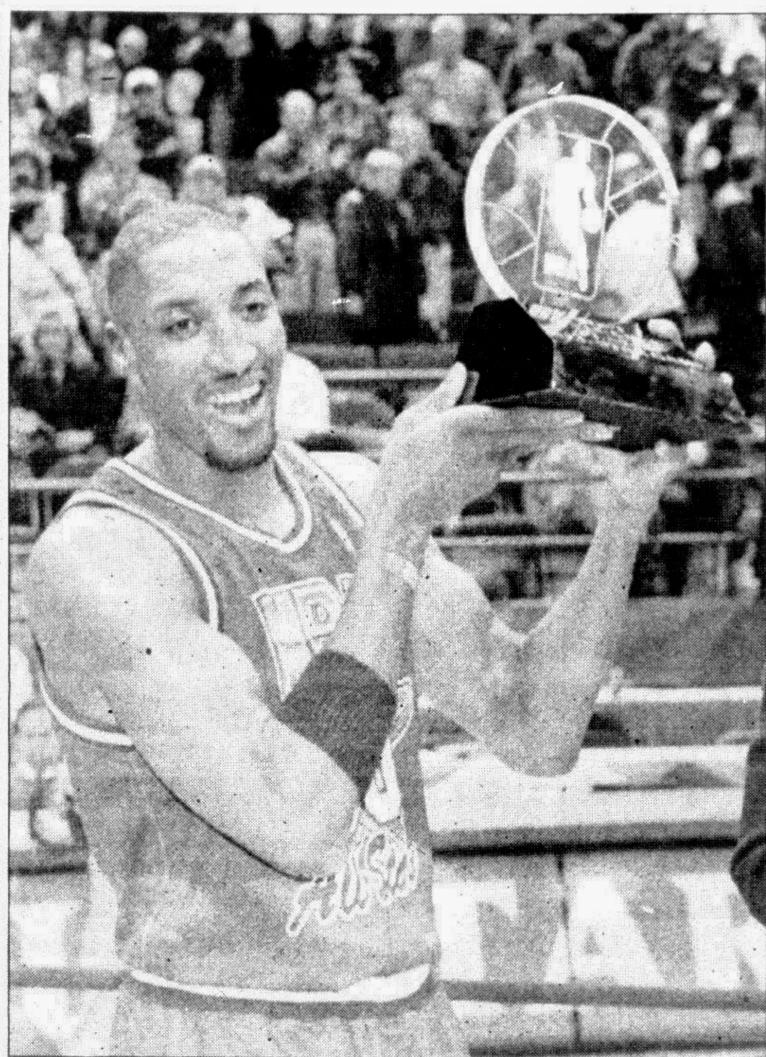
They will watch the women's supergiant Alpine ski race and the freestyle skiing moguls event on Tuesday.

They were due to spend Monday night in a scouts camp where about 300 young people from 19 countries are staying.

Palestine was provisionally admitted to the international Olympic committee last September but was unable to send any observers.

Israel is represented at a Winter Olympics for the first time by Georgian immigrant Misha Shmerkin. The 24-year-old arrived in Israel from Odessa two years ago, qualified for the Olympics with a 19th place at the World Figure Skating Championships in Prague.

His new home town of Matulon, on the border with Lebanon, had hoped to start work on a three-million dollar Olympic size skating rink during the Games.



NBA Eastern Conference's Scottie Pippen of the Chicago Bulls holds aloft the MVP Trophy after defeating the Western Conference 127-118 in the NBA All-Star Game in Minneapolis on Feb 13. —AFP photo

## Harding puts Games in tangle

**LILLEHAMMER, Feb 14:** Tonya Harding is helping put Lillehammer on the map. But she's also causing hassles and headaches for Olympic organisers, reports AP.

The Harding affair has kept the name of Lillehammer in newspapers around the world for weeks. And now that Harding will skate against Nancy Kerrigan, the attention will only increase.

On one hand, Games organisers say, Lillehammer benefits from the added exposure.

"This case has created a lot of extra interest in the Games," said Tor Aune, chief spokesman of the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee (LOOC). "The name of Lillehammer has become more well known because of this."

"One of the reasons why you want to host competitions like the Olympics is to get a lot of publicity for your city," added Bjorn Ruud, manager of the figure skating venue in Hamar. "Today, if you ask people in the United States, almost everybody knows where Lillehammer is."

But the focus on Harding also has its downside. Olympic officials say it has detracted from the job Norway has done

in organizing the Games and created new security and logistical problems.

"Some people say all publicity is good publicity, but I think we could have lived without it in this case," Ruud said.

"I agree," said LOOC sports director Martin Burkhalter. "We could have done without this kind of publicity. Our venues and the excellent results so far would have spoken for themselves."

LOOC officials never imagined the glut of coverage the Olympics would receive in connection with the Jan 6 clubbing attack on Kerrigan. Harding's ex-husband and three other men have admitted roles in the attack, but the skater maintains she learned about the plot only afterwards.

Under a deal announced Saturday, the US Olympic Committee confirmed Harding's eligibility for the Games. In return, Harding dropped the \$25 million lawsuit she filed against the USOC to block a disciplinary hearing that could have resulted in her expulsion from the American team.

Harding is due to arrive at the Winter Games on Wednesday. She and Kerrigan will live in the same building at the athletes' village in Hamar, practice at the same time on the same rink and face each

other on the ice Feb. 23.

"It seems like the press finds this story more important than wars around the world," Ruud said. "I'm really sorry about it. This is a sports competition."

More than 1,000 reporters packed the auditorium at the main press centre in Lillehammer on Saturday for Kerrigan's news conference. In order to accommodate the impending media crush in Hamar, organisers are taking over a cafeteria to serve as an interview room for 300-400 people.

"It gives us a lot of extra work," Ruud said. "We've got to keep control over all the media. You start being a policeman."

The real police have their hands full, too.

"Security inside the venue has been stepped up," Aune said. "We have stricter access controls, including frisking of spectators. There is also better security in the kiss-and-cry area — where skaters receive their scores within view of television cameras."

Burkhalter, the LOOC sports director, said Harding should be treated just like everyone else.

"She is welcome to compete like any other athlete," he said. "I just hope it will be a fair and good competition."

## Samaranch off to Sarajevo

**LILLEHAMMER, Feb 14:** IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch headed Monday for Sarajevo to pay tribute to the embattled city and renew his call for an 'Olympic Truce,' the International Olympic Committee said, reports AP.

With the visit, the IOC wants to show solidarity to the city that hosted the 1984 Winter Games, an IOC statement said.

Samaranch has issued a call for a worldwide truce during the Feb. 12-27 Winter Games, and directed a special appeal to the warring sides in Bosnia.

The IOC delegation also will include Mexican IOC member Mario Vasquez Rana; the head of the European national Olympic Committees, Jacques Rogge; IOC director general Francois Carrard; and IOC advisor Fekrou Kidane.

The group left Lillehammer Monday afternoon for Oslo, where they were to board a private offered for the first leg of the trip. The schedule was being kept confidential, but sources said the group was expected to visit Sarajevo on Wednesday aboard a UN aircraft.

## Fine Russian double

**LIEVIN, France, Feb 14:** Russian triple-jumper Inna Lasovskaya broke her own world indoor record Sunday, leaping 14.90 metres (48 feet, 10 3/4 inches) at the Vittel-Pas de Calais track meet, reports AP.

Lasovskaya's old mark was 14.78 metres (48 feet, 6 inches) set Jan. 27 in Moscow.

She was the only competitor to take a world record at the 5 million franc (dfrs) 840,000 meet, though organisers hoped to see top marks in the men and women's 200 metres.

Lasovskaya's countryman Leonid Voloshin set the men's world indoor record last week in Grenoble at 17.77 meters (58 feet, 3 3/4 inches), beating the 1987 mark of American Mike Conley.

Voloshin was well off that distance Sunday, though he easily captured first place with a triple jump of 17.21 metres (56 feet, 5 3/4 inches).

Frank Fredericks of Namibia, the 200-metre gold medalist at the 1992 Olympics, easily won here when organisers failed to entice British star Linford Christie to the meet.

The women's sprints were the most anticipated races on the fast Lievin track, pitting Irina Privalova of Russia against Jamaica's Merlene Ottey, who set the 200-meter world record here last year.

Privalova captured the 60-meter dash, though she was one-hundredth of a second off her world record speed of 6.92. Ottey crossed second at 7.02.

The Russian also won the 200 metres after Ottey, who suffered a cold this week, sat out of the race.

Rodion Gataullin of Russia and Frenchman Jean Gallone both cleared 5.90 metres (19 feet, 4.1 inches) in the pole vault.

The meet is viewed as a warmup to the European Indoor Championships to be held March 11-13 in Paris.

## Zvereva ends title drought

**CHICAGO, Feb 14:** Sixth seed Natalia Zvereva of Belarus, who thought she might never win another title, on Sunday beat unseeded American Chanda Rubin in the singles final of the 400,000 dollars Virginia Slims of Chicago tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

Zvereva won her first singles title since 1990, spoiling the first career final for Rubin with a 6-3, 7-5 victory.

Rubin, the first unseeded finalist here since Zvereva in 1987, reached the final when fifth seed Magdalena Maleeva was forced to retire from their semifinal with an injury. Maleeva had picked off top seed and 12-time champion Martina Navratilova in the quarters.

Rubin, who turns 18 on

Friday, had beaten Zvereva in their only previous meeting. But on Sunday, Zvereva roared out to a 5-0 start to keep the American out of the match.

Zvereva began with consecutive aces and broke Rubin at love and at 15 in the American's first two service games.

"It could've been a whole different math if I would've started out better," said the 47th-ranked Rubin. "I definitely think I could've put more pressure on her."

The ease of her start actually hurt Zvereva for a while, but she recovered after dropping three successive games.

"It's hard to concentrate," Zvereva said. "She was missing a lot of balls in the first set and I was getting things pretty easy

for me. It was hard to stay focused."

In the pivotal 11th game Zvereva broke the teenager at love. With all her points coming on unforced errors by Rubin, who admitted she was nervous.

The sixth career title came as something of a surprise to the 19th-ranked Zvereva, 22, who admitted she has been suffering through a crisis of confidence.

"I did not think I could win a tournament because the field has gotten very strong," Zvereva said.

"Even though I got in the final at Filderstadt, Mary (Pierce) was unbelievable."

"It's not that I don't believe in myself," Zvereva said. "I just ruled myself out."

## Becker back on track

**MILAN, Feb 14:** Germany's Boris Becker retained his Milan indoor tennis title on Sunday with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 victory over a weary Petr Korda of the Czech Republic, reports Reuter.

It was Becker's first title anywhere for 12 months in what was only his second tournament since he returned to the tour following the birth of his first child.

The fifth-seeded Becker served well and looked full of energy as he wrapped up his fourth Milan title in one hour and 50 minutes. He had previously won the event in 1987 and 1989 as well as last year.

Indoor championships are my favourite... I win even if I'm not playing at my best," Becker said. "I didn't expect to win a tournament so early on this year."

Becker, whose ranking has dropped to 13th in the world during his absence from competition, picked up a winner's cheque of 115,000 dollars and suggested his immediate future looked bright.

"In the next few months, I may be playing some of my best tennis," he said. "I've been training a lot since January and the fruits are beginning to show."

Korda, who played late into the night on Saturday in the doubles tournament, took the second set but tired visibly in the third.



US first lady Hillary Clinton applauds the American ice hockey team during a match against France in XVII Winter Games in Lillehammer on Feb 13. —AFP photo

## Altruistic Lewis

**MELBOURNE, Feb 14:** World 100 metres record holder Carl Lewis will make his second visit to Australia this year when he attends a series of fund-raisers to collect money for victims of last month's bush fires, reports AP.

Four people died and hundreds were made homeless by the bush fires that swept Sydney suburbs and coastal regions of New South Wales state in the southwest.

Lewis, winner of eight Olympic Games gold medals, visited Melbourne last month on a 24-hour trip to comfort Craig Sheppard, a seriously ill 17-year-old Australian athlete.

This week, Lewis will attend functions to honor former Australian sprint star Betty Cuthbert and raise funds for bush fire relief.

Cuthbert won gold medals in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 400 metres relay at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and in the 400 metres at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics but now is suffering from multiple sclerosis.

During her career she set 15 world records.

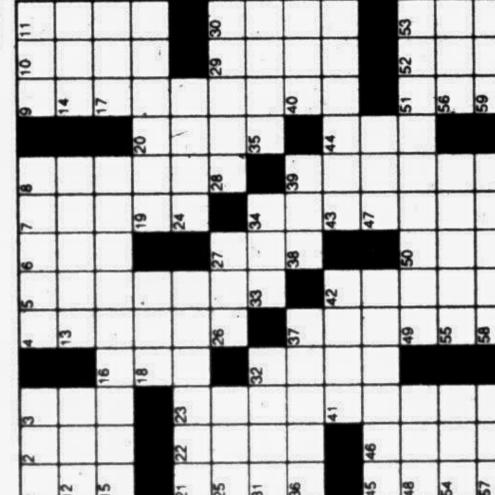
Lewis will speak at a luncheon in Brisbane on Tuesday and at formal dinners in Melbourne and Sydney on Tuesday and Wednesday to raise money for a series of international track and field meets to be called The Cuthbert Internationals.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- |                                  |                                   |                              |                               |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                    | sch.                              | 57 Potential                 | 9 Rule in some zones          |
| 1 Ewe said it!                   | 40 Diarist Anais                  | 58 Whom Bugs bugs            | 10 Dry                        |
| 4 "Peyton —"                     | 41 Says it's OK                   | 59 Nevertheless              | 11 Senate employee            |
| 9 Pile                           | 43 Clay pigeon,                   | <b>DOWN</b>                  | 16 Steamed up                 |
| 12 Put together                  | 45 Chatter away                   | 1 Prohibit                   | 20 Back                       |
| 13 Frost-covered                 | 47 Cross-word bird                | 2 Bother                     | 21 Track circuits             |
| 14 Man-mouse link                | 48 Pugilism legend                | 3 Newspaper revenue source   | 22 Monad                      |
| 15 Sign seen in elevators        | 49 "I'm serious"                  | 4 Wrote "Q.E.D."             | 23 Teacher's test-time dictum |
| 17 Greedy one                    | 54 Chaney                         | 5 Compared                   | 27 Bud's partner              |
| 18 "Hail!"                       | 55 Lorre, in "The Maltese Falcon" | 6 "What Kind of Fool —?"     | 29 Adams or McClurg           |
| 19 Filibuster, maybe             | 56 Church-ilean gesture           | 7 They're not worth a nickel | 30 Dismissed                  |
| 21 "Good Morning America" cohost |                                   | 8 More nervous               | 32 Deuce beater               |
| 24 Prophet                       |                                   |                              | 34 "Top Hat" star             |
| 25 Year (Sp.)                    |                                   |                              | 37 Position                   |
| 26 Neighbor of N.J.              |                                   |                              | 39 Frankness                  |
| 28 Croupiers' props              |                                   |                              | 42 Scandinavian toast         |
| 31 Actor Brad                    |                                   |                              | 44 Free (of)                  |
| 33 "— good deed"                 |                                   |                              | 45 Eli's realm                |
| 35 Carnival attraction           |                                   |                              | 46 Slept like —               |
| 36 Navigator's "tools"           |                                   |                              | 50 Kipling hero               |
| 38 Trojans'                      |                                   |                              | 51 Wall climber               |

**Solution time: 27 min.**

**Saturday's answer 7-5**



**CRYPTOQUIP**

T A S H M A R W T U O  
R V U W G K T V K N T A U A L O  
F V K F T H E A J W J  
V K S T V E S N M V L

**Saturday's Cryptoquip: CLEVER MEDICAL STUDENTS TRYING TO PASS THE BIG ANATOMY TEST HAVE TO BONE UP.**

**Today's Cryptoquip clue: S 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.