

Lewis aims to go even faster

SYDNEY, Feb 15: American athlete Carl Lewis today declared he was capable of lowering his own world record for the 100 metres this year, reports Reuter.

The multiple Olympic gold medalist sprinter and long jumper said he had recovered from a troubling back injury after taking a 12-month break from the sport.

"My back is better. I feel stronger than before, physically and emotionally and I believe I can jump further and sprint faster," said Lewis, who holds the world record mark of 9.86 seconds set in 1991.

"I want it to be a big year for me," added Lewis, 32, winner of eight Olympic gold medals and eight World Championship titles.

"After a year away from the sport, I had my first long jump workout in January and came back feeling as though I had not missed a beat," he said.

Lewis was speaking on arrival in Australia for a two-day visit.

"I would like to come back (to Australia) and compete be-



CARL LEWIS

cause of the weather and the support of my fan clubs," he told reporters.

"Apart of my plan is to compete in countries where I have not raced before."

Lewis will attend several fund-raising events in honour of Australian sprinter Betty Cuthbert, who won three gold medals at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne but now suffers from multiple sclerosis.

Funds raised by the visit will be used to bring overseas athletes to Australia to participate in a series of events to be known as the "Cuthbert Internationals."

Lewis said that American track and field hero Jesse Owens, who triumphed at the 1936 Berlin Games, had been one of his idols.

"He took time to stop and share his knowledge with me in my earlier years. I'm happy to share my knowledge with the people in the same manner," said Lewis.

Lewis also demanded stronger action to clean drugs out of sport.

"Drugs have been around since the 1950s. There are people who don't use them and then there are cheaters... we have to address the problem as a whole."

"We're not doing everything yet to stop drug users. When every part of society acts with 100 per cent commitment, then we have a chance. Taking drugs is a cop-out."

Maradona wants a change of scene

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 15: Diego Maradona has set his sights on becoming a race car driver, reports AFP.

Having turned his back on his latest club, Newell's Old Boys, the scandal haunted soccer international told television on Monday of his plans to take part in an Argentinean form of stock car racing.

Maradona said he wants to be the co-driver for Argentinean racer Jorge Oyhanart. When serving his 18 month ban from football for cocaine use he drove in the same sport with Oscar Aventin.

Maradona's contract with Newell's was terminated two weeks ago and he now faces an investigation into the shooting of six journalists waiting outside his home afterwards.

The soccer star still does not know whether he will take part in the World Cup finals in America with Argentina.

Australia unwelcome

MELBOURNE, Feb 15: Australia's inclusion in the Asian qualifying group would not be welcomed by the region's established soccer powers because of their strength, a top Japanese club coach said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Kiyo Kumo, coach of J-League side JEF United, said Australia would provide stern opposition for Asian countries.

"We would rather Australians were not in the Asian group," said Kumo, speaking through an interpreter.

Kumo said Australia proved they were a world-class side when they lost 2-1 on aggregate in their final qualifier against Argentina last year after winning the Oceania Group and then a playoff against Canada.

"All Asian people think that way. The last qualification games showed Australia were extremely strong," added Kumo, whose side will play two friendlies in Melbourne this weekend during their pre-season tour.

The Australian Soccer Federation is lobbying for a more direct route to the World Cup finals. They want the Oceania Group winners to play in the Asian play-offs.

If world governing body FIFA backs the move, Asia is expected to be handed a third qualifying berth for the 1998 finals in France.

Under the present qualifying system, Australia have to win the Oceania Group, beat the runners-up in the CONCACAF group and then defeat the runners-up in a South American Group to reach the World Cup finals.

JEF United's German midfielder Pierre Littbarski, a veteran of three World Cup campaigns, praised the progress made by Australia.

"I was really impressed by the standard of the national team and with a little bit of luck they could have beaten Argentina," Littbarski said.

Australia currently have more than 35 professionals contracted to European clubs.

aged Bosnia, reports AFP.

Three days later, in a small house in Lillehammer, Bosnia, Croats, Slovenes and Macedonians brokered their own tiny peace treaty.

Slovenia, independent for just two years, has, like more dominant winter sports countries, set up a house here for the duration of the Olympics.

They are here to promote their fledgling country, to give support to the small team of athletes and to enjoy the comradeship of colleagues they used to call fellow Yugoslavs.

On Tuesday night, at Slovenia House, a group who used to be known of the ski circuit as "the Yugos" got together to share the deadly schnapps they love and to exchange news on their dismembered country.

Their joy in being together

was obvious.

They hugged affectionately, talked eagerly and took endless group photos. As the evening progressed in that costly house near the superb Birkebeineren Ski Stadium, ex-Yugoslavs sang regional songs which used to belong to them all.

For the small group of Bosnians among them, it was a

US figure skater Nancy Kerrigan clenches her fist during a practice session held at the Hammer Olympic Amphitheatre in Lillehammer on Feb 14. — AFP photo

Samaranch's mantic sermon

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 15: International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch urged the Lillehammer Games to be a peace treaty for the world.

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Augurs unwell for tennis

BEIJING, Feb 15: China's first professional women's tennis tournament made an inauspicious start on Monday when it failed to attract a single paying spectator, reports Reuter.

No tickets were sold for the first day's play at the 100,000 dollars China Women's Open being staged in the capital's 6,000-seat national Olympic Sports Centre, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

"No single ticket has been sold today," an official admitted. "People in China have not had much interest in the sport."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Mimics	just	females
1 Already (Fr.)	38 Watch every penny	Everage	16 Top
5 Ship's nose	41 Arafat's org.	52 Remnant	20 Beer ingredient
8 Faction	42 Like a bump on —	53 Command to Fido	21 Steffi of tennis
12 Richard of late-show fame	43 Emergency cargo transport methods	DOWN	22 Avis adjective
13 "Birds — feather..."	48 Sir's counter-part	1 #3, on the phone	23 Grand-scale
14 Cornfield invader	49 Sticky stuff	2 Freudian concern	24 Rub the wrong way
15 Warehouse machinery	50 Trevi fountain	3 Discor-dance	26 What rosin prevents
17 Mature	21 Avarice	4 Low joints	27 "Would — to you?"
18 Abner's adjective	24 Grub	5 Seethe	28 Trepidation
19 Action-film scenes	25 Criticizes harshly	6 Vacation-ing	29 Lads' lids
20 Onassis, familiarly	26 Act the klepto	7 Be careful	31 Quahog
31 Annual visitor	27 Onassis, familiarly	8 Awful pen-manship	34 Baffler
32 Thompson of "Back to the Future"	28 Act the klepto	9 Rainbow	35 Victor's due
33 Nick and Tuck?	29 Onassis, familiarly	10 Nitwit	37 Completely
35 Mongkut's kingdom	30 Onassis, familiarly	11 Farm	38 Un-changed
36 Scruff	31 Annual visitor	Solution time: 24 mins.	39 Dressed

CRYPTOQUIP

E I F M H ' N A L B H E G B N Q F L

J I M M F M M B T F F H

R H N F L F M N R H T H R G F

M Q B L J F H R H A ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: RECIPE FOR MY FAMOUS RASH REMEDY WAS WRITTEN ON A SCRATCH PAD.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: H equals N

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.

Furlan fells Washington

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 15: Renzo Furlan of Italy scored the first upset of the US Pro Indoor tournament on Monday when he sent sixth seeded American Malivi Washington packing after surviving a match point, reports Reuter.

Furlan, who won his first tournament title two weeks ago with a victory over Michael Chang in San Jose, surprised Washington 6-2, 4-6, 7-6.

"It stinks, said the 23rd-ranked Washington." "When you're that close you want to put it away."

"I was one point away from being in the lockroom and getting a nice rub. Now, I'm sitting here, unshowered, trying to find out when the next flight home is."

The tournament's top two seeds — world number one Pete Sampras and third-ranked Andre Agassi — are scheduled to play first round matches, today but the other two seeds to play Monday fared better than Washington.

Eighth seed Jaime Yzaga of Peru beat Karsten Braasch of Germany 6-3, 6-2 to get past the first round for the first time this year and seventh-seeded Russian Andrei Ches-

novok advanced with a 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 victory over American Jeff Tarango.

"It's about time," said Yzaga. Who lost in the first round in Sydney and the Australian

Open last month.

"I was winning and had chances in my two other matches. That makes you a little nervous, wondering when you are going to win the first match of the year," said Yzaga who broke Braasch four times in the match.

Despite coming back to take the second set, Washington never looked quite comfortable in the two hour and 46 minute match. His groundstrokes were not crisp and he appeared tentative on his net approaches.

Still Washington found himself leading 5-4 in the third set and serving for the match.

The American broke a string on his match point serve and missed his next shot, a backhand crosscourt approach.

The determined Furlan came back to break the frustrated Washington for 5-5 and forced the decisive tie-break.

The Italian then dominated the tie-break, jumping out to a 4-1 lead and winning the final three points, for 7-1.

"I tried to think about nothing but to concentrate," Furlan said.

"I was playing not so good in the second set. But I started to relax and concentrate and put more pressure on in the third set."

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Feb 15: Monica Seles, who ruled women's tennis for 21 successive months before being forced from the circuit by a crazed fan, on Monday dropped completely out of the world rankings, reports Reuter.

Seles, who has not returned to the court since being stabbed in the back during a match last April in Hamburg, no longer has three tournaments played during a 52-week span and thus was dumped from the Women's Tennis Association rankings.

The 20-year-old Seles had fallen steadily in the rankings since being forced to the sidelines and was ranked 18th last week.

Seles, winner of seven Grand Slam singles titles, was ranked number one in the world from September 9, 1991.

Following her first US Open triumph, until June 6, 1993.

Snow or shine, drug is there

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 15: Austria expelled bobsleigh driver Gerhard Rainer from the Lillehammer Winter Olympics after he tested positive in a routine pre-Games doping test, the teams sports director said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

It was believed to be the first positive dope test involving the sport of bobsleigh.

Roland Joki said Rainer, a 33-year-old policeman from Innsbruck who lists his hobby as being lazy, had been caught using the banned anabolic steroid metandienone to help get over an injury.

"He was sent home on Saturday, the day of the opening ceremony — and the day we got the test result, Joki said. Rainer had arrived in Lillehammer only last Wednesday and was to have competed in Austria's second two-man bob.

He hope this will not affect the rest of the Austrian team. That is why we sent him home as soon as possible.

Asked why the team waited more than 48 hours before announcing the expulsion, Joki said: "We just didn't want to make a big fuss about it."

International Olympic Committee spokeswoman Michele Verdier said the case was a matter for the Austrians.

He was not caught in an IOC control, she said. This means there has been no doping case at the Lillehammer Games.

The Lillehammer organisers declined to comment. Joki said all Australian athletes were routinely, and voluntarily, tested for banned drugs before an Olympic Games.

An athletes urine sample is normally split into two, but after the A sample proved positive Rainer declined the option of having the B sample analysed to corroborate the finding.

The test was conducted at the end of January and analysed at an IOC-accredited laboratory in Cologne, Germany. Rainer faces a two-year ban.

It will be discussed but its fairly cut and dried, Joki said.

A month ago, the IOC and international sports federations agreed on a joint fight against Olympic drug cheats and a minimum two-year ban for offenders.

Joki said Rainer had been

suffering from a nagging injury and had taken the drug to try to speed his recovery.

This is his explanation but it is, of course, by no means an excuse for what he did, Joki said.

Anabolic, steroids build muscle bulk and improve an athletes recovery rate.

Rainer's best result in major events was sixth place in the 1993 four-man World Championship. In the 1992 Olympics in Albertville he was eighth in the two-man event.

The Lillehammer two-man competition begins on Saturday and Rainers place has been taken by Markus Einberger.

The Olympics, despite efforts to clean up sport, have been dogged by doping scandals.

In the most notorious case, Canada's Ben Johnson was drummed out of the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul for

taking steroids and stripped of his 100 metres gold medal. Nine other athletes also tested positive, earning Seoul the title the Games of shame.

Five athletes were caught at the Barcelona Games in 1992.

There were no doping expulsions at Albertville, but Norwegian ice hockey players Orjan Lovdal was sent home in disgrace after spending the night away from the team hotel.

In 1988 in Calgary, Polish ice hockey player Jaroslav Morawiecki was disqualified after failing a post-match test. He had taken testosterone and epitesterone.

Four years earlier in Sarajevo, a lowly-placed Mongolian cross-country skier was disqualified for using anabolic steroids and at the Innsbruck Games in 1976 Czechoslovakia ice hockey captain Frantisek Pospisil failed a random dope test.

Southampton sink Liverpool

LONDON, Feb 15: A hat-trick from Matthew Le Tissier, including the fastest goal of the English Premier League season, inspired Southampton to a thumping 4-2 win over Liverpool at the Dell on Monday, reports Reuter.

Le Tissier beat Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar after just 28 seconds with a fierce right-foot shot and added two more from the penalty spot either side of half-time.

New signing Craig Maskell had put relegation-threatened Southampton 2-0 up inside seven minutes with a close-range header, a perfect start for manager Alan Ball in his first home match in charge.

Liverpool's new manager Roy Evans, appointed following the resignation of Graeme Souness, had little to enjoy apart from late second-half goals from Julian Dicks, also from the penalty spot, and Ian Rush.

His side had plenty of possession, but looked shaky in defence particularly when Le Tissier had the ball.

Zico to go home

TOKYO, Feb 15: Brazilian striker Zico will return home in June when his current contract with Japanese soccer club, Kashima Antlers, ends. Kyodo, News Service reported on Monday, reports Reuter.

Kyodo said club officials announced that Zico, 40, was leaving for personal family reasons and also because his stamina was falling.

The former international helped the small town club reach the top of Japan's professional soccer league, winning the first half of the season last year.

Harding cheered on

PORTLAND, Oregon, Feb 15: More than 2,000 fans watched figure skater Tonya Harding practise on Monday, her last performance here before her departure for the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, reports AP.

The US figure skating champion, cleared to compete in Lillehammer on Sunday after she dropped her lawsuit against the US Olympic Committee, was expected to arrive in Norway on Wednesday.

Harding wore a T-shirt bearing the legend "Don't Dream it, be it."

Elaine Stamm, president of the Tonya Harding Fan Club presented the skater with a cheque for 1,000 dollars raised by the organisation.

"There's real excitement here today," Stamm enthused. It's almost as if it's a new beginning.

Harding's Olympic berth had been in doubt ever since she was implicated in the January 6 attack on rival skater Nancy Kerrigan.

Harding's ex-husband, Jeff Gillooly, and her bodyguard admitted planning the assault, in which Kerrigan was struck on the leg with a metal baton.

Both claim Harding was in on the scheme, a charge she denies.

No criminal charges have been filed against the skater, but figure skating officials and the USOC had questioned whether she had breached their ethics codes.

Edberg toils

STUTTGART, Germany, Feb 15: Stefan Edberg withstood a barrage of aces by Marc Goellner on Monday to win a first-round match at the Eurocard Open, reports AP.

Edberg, the world's fifth-ranked player, beat the German 6-7 (4-7), 7-6 (7-2), 6-0.

Goellner, who beat Edberg in a Davis Cup match last October, appeared to be headed toward another upset after he won the first set and saved three set points with aces in the second set.

The last ace was his 23rd, including three in the first set tiebreaker.

But Edberg recovered to hold his own serve and routed Goellner in the tiebreaker. Goellner, who had 23 aces, collapsed in the final set.

"I maintained my calm," Edberg said. "It's not easy to play against Goellner because he comes up with aces and hits incredible winners."

Edberg, who held the No 1 ranking for 65 weeks, fell out of the top five in October for the first time in nine years. His decline coincided with a pause when his daughter was born in July.

This year, Edberg already has won one tournament, matching his total in 1993.

"It's nice to be back again. I've got some good expectations," he said.

Fifth-seeded Cedric Pioline of France needed two hours and 37 minutes to edge Sweden's Magnus Larsson 6-7(6-8), 6-4, 7-6(7-2). In other action, Russian Andrei Cherkasov beat Jonas Svensson of Sweden 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 and France's Henri Leconte defeated Javier Sanchez of Spain 6-2, 7-6 (7-3).

Most top seeds in the field, which boasts five top-10 players, first swing into action beginning Tuesday.



Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding look-alikes Sarah Oliver(R) and Tracy Hunt have a chat prior to a casting audition for a cable television movie called "Spunk: The Tonya Harding Story" in New York on Feb 14. — AFP photo