

Pakistan aim to end on a high

CHRISTCHURCH. New Zealand, Feb 23: Pakistan aren't planning to let up in the third and final cricket Test with New Zealand despite holding a winning 2-0 advantage going into the Lancaster Park encounter beginning Thursday, reports AP.

"We're looking for a third win — this isn't a friendly game, it is a Test," Pakistan captain Salim Malik said Wednesday.

"This is my fourth tour here and normally New Zealand are very hard to beat in New Zealand, so we were surprised how weak the batting has been."

New Zealand received bad news this week when captain Ken Rutherford suffered a painful hand injury while batting in the nets, and by all rounder Chris Cairns' later withdrawal from the match.

While New Zealand pondered whether Rutherford would recover to lead the side, or whether Mark Greatbatch would be making his first Test as captain, Pakistan were preparing for battle.

One of the injury concerns for the visitors has been a broken finger for Asif Mujtaba, leaving the tour selectors to choose between veteran Shoaib Mohammad and Atif Rauf. Rauf has not played a game on the New Zealand tour.

Greatbatch, meanwhile, was admitting the idea of leading New Zealand for the first time was appealing.

"If I am (captain) then it is unfortunate for Ken because we'll miss him as a player and a leader," Greatbatch said.

"But it will be a great opportunity for me to captain the country, a real honour, and if it happens then I'm looking forward to it."

With the track predicted to

develop into a good batting strip, Malik said he might rest his devastating bowling tandem of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis should he win the toss.

It is also probably a reflection of his concern over young pace bowler Ata ur Rehman, who has a thigh strain and may be replaced by Aamir Nazir.

TEAM

NEW ZEALAND: Ken Rutherford, Blair Hartland, Bryan Young, Andrew Jones, Mark Greatbatch, Stephen Fleming, Shane Thomson, Tony Blair, Matthew Hart, Simon Doull, Chris Pringle, Danny Morrison, Michael Owens.

PAKISTAN: Salim Malik (captain), Aamir Sohail, Anwar Saeed, Basit Ali, Shoaib Mohammad, Atif Rauf, Inzamam ul Haq, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Akram Raza, Waqar Younis, Ata ur Rehman, Aamir Nazir.

Azhar confident

HYDERABAD, Feb 23: "We will strive for success in the forthcoming New Zealand tour," the Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin said here today, reports PTI.

At a felicitation function organised by the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), the 34-year-old skipper said, "We should be as successful as anybody else in the New Zealand tour," apparently referring to the ongoing Kiwi-Pak Test series.

"I will not bring a bad name to the side and will strive for success," he said amidst applause. He was all praise for Venkatapathy Raju, who was also felicitated at the function.

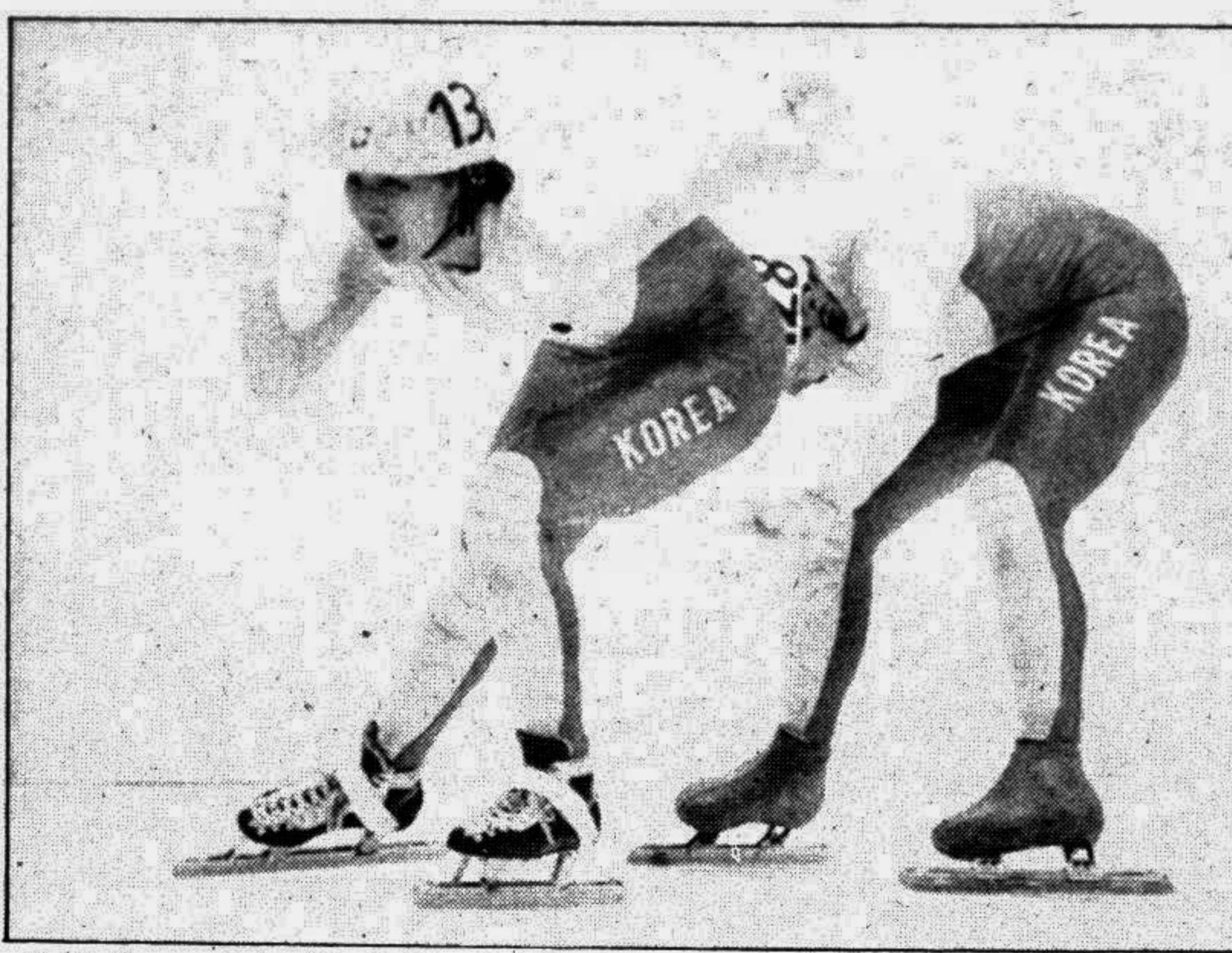
"My happiest moment was winning the second one-day match at the Lal Bahadur Stadium here," said the local hero with a proud smile.

"This is the ground I have come up from. I have put in my efforts and played at this place so much and so often. I am very happy to win the international match at this very ground before the packed to capacity home crowd," he said emotionally.

He said, "There is a lot of talent to tap in Hyderabad and youngsters willing to learn and work hard with dedication will surely come up. The state can be represented by seven to eight players as was the case in early 60s. The result of the match with Sri Lanka must surely inspire officials to conduct more matches on this ground."

Azharuddin, Raju and administrative manager for the ensuing New Zealand tour, K Ranga Reddy were felicitated by the HCA and given a cheque of rs 5,001 each and a memento. Reddy said the team would bring laurels to the country. Former Test star M L Jaisimha wished the team success.

HCA announced a cash prize of rs 5,000 for every century a batsman scores in New Zealand and the same amount to every bowler who takes over five wickets. It also announced an award of rs. 1,116 to local lad VVS Laxman, for his selection in the junior national team to play Australian Colts.



South Korean skater Kim So-Hee (L) is pushed over by her teammate Chun Lee Kyung in the women's 3,000m relay final of the XVII Winter Olympic Games in Hamar, Norway yesterday. The Korean team won the gold. — AFP photo

Arch-rivals finally meet

HAMAR, Norway, Feb 23: Practice is over. It's time for the long-awaited women's figure skating competition to begin.

with a mark that's way off-base, especially with so much focus on skating."

Ah, the skating. Bonaly, with four straight European lips, including a victory over world champion Baiul in January, has plenty of support. So does Baiul, the 16-year-old spry who won in her first appearance at the world championships last year in Prague. She's added two combination jumps to her routine, and her freshness is contagious.

China's Chen Lu, third in the last two world events, has struggled in her practices at

Hamar. But Sato's workouts have been terrific.

Canada's Josee Chouinard and France's Lætitia Hubert also deserve consideration, but are longshots. Katarina Witt, the 1984 and 1988 gold medalist, is back, but she is not considered a medal contender.

Wednesday's programme it counts for one-third of the score. The final, free skate portion will be Friday night.

Back home, Harding is under grand jury investigation in the attack and faces a hearing in March by US figure skating's governing body that could get her banished from major competitions.

Since the attack, Harding has been riding an emotional roller-coaster, battling the US Olympic committee in court just to get to Lillehammer. Virtually everything she says or does is reported instantly all over the globe.

While Kerrigan has had mostly solid practices — she was especially impressive Monday — Harding has yet to do a full run-through of her free skate and re-sprained her ankle in practice this week.

"When you're having a good day, you're having a good day. And when you're not, things hurt more," Hamilton said. "When you're under a lot of pressure, things hurt more."

At least Harding won't be marked down by the judges for wearing a costume considered too risqué, as she was at the US Figure Skating Championships last month. The new burgundy outfit she revealed Tuesday had rhinestones and sequins splattered all over but was not revealing.

Who is going to win? Stay tuned.

"They are all different," Dunfield said. "It comes down to, do you like chocolate, vanilla or strawberry?"

He said, "There is a lot of talent to tap in Hyderabad and youngsters willing to learn and work hard with dedication will surely come up. The state can be represented by seven to eight players as was the case in early 60s. The result of the match with Sri Lanka must surely inspire officials to conduct more matches on this ground."

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Unexpected summed it all up

HAMAR, Feb 23: When the ice chips cleared in short-track speedskating, South Korea had nabbed two golds. China won a medal and lost it, and the United States and Canada came up with surprising bronzes, reports AP.

South Korea, with the two youngest gold medalists in Winter Olympics history, out-duelled China over the final hairpin laps to win the women's 3,000 relay Tuesday night. Canada, which hadn't lost that relay since 1988, crossed the finish line a full lap ahead of the Americans.

Then came the medal revisions.

The United States, taking advantage of a wipeout by the heavily favoured Canadians, had been in third place with four laps left when skater Nikki Ziegelmeyer sprawled to the ice.

But 10 minutes later the judges ruled that Ziegelmeyer fell after swerving to avoid a Chinese skater who should not

have been on the track. China was disqualified, the Canadians traded in their bronze for silver and the Americans were medalists as the fast-paced event began its second spill-a-minute run as an Olympic medal sport.

Still, many of the more than 5,000 spectators had left by the time the medal ceremony finally took place.

The South Koreans won with a team that included Kim Yoon-Mi, 13, and Won Hye-Kyung, 14. Kim Yoon-Mi eclipses Scott Allen, 14, a US figure skater in 1964, as the youngest Winter Olympics medalist ever.

In the men's 1,000 metres Tuesday, gold-medalist Kim Ki-Hoon of South Korea defended the title he won at the 1992 Games, and his teammate Chae Ji-Hoon grabbed the silver.

They finally found Canadian Marc Gagnon, the 1,000-meter and all-around world champion in 1993, Gagnon didn't even make the final after wiping out in the semis.

Gagnon, who won a consolation heat, got the bronze when Britain's Nicholas Gooch was disqualified for bumping Derrick Campbell of Canada, and Campbell was disqualified for failing to skate his final lap.

Campbell appeared to finish, but came up a lap short because the bell that is supposed to notify skaters when they are beginning their last lap was rung a lap too early for him.

Eric Flaim, a US silver medalist in long-track 1,500 metres in 1988, was one of the 1,000-meter favourites but was nipped in the fastest quarterfinal heat and didn't qualify. All four skaters in his heat broke the Olympic record, led by Korea's Lee Jun-Ho in 1 minute, 29.58 seconds.

Declaring the two gold and one silver medals "a great feat," South Korean President Kim Young-sam sent his personal congratulations to the medalists on Wednesday.

Families throughout South Korea had stayed up late to watch live broadcasts from Lillehammer.

Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan compete against each other Wednesday for the first time since Harding's ex-husband hired a thug to hit Kerrigan on the leg with a club. That soap opera moves to a new stage, the women's technical programme, and more than 100 million Americans are expected to watch the drama that has captivated the world, reports AP.

As widely covered as the Americans have been, they are not even the favourites — Okasana Baiul of Ukraine and Surya Bonaly of France are.

And the competition features another group — judges, who, more than ever, must be beyond reproach.

"Are we going to judge this according to reputation or according to skating?" asked Peter Dunfield, coach of Japan's Yuka Sato. "Or are we going to get carried away with the publicity of the Harding thing?"

Speculation about the judging has been as rampant as the speculation about the extent of Harding's role in the Jan 6 attack on Kerrigan at last month's US championships. Will they judges penalise Harding, no matter how she skates, because they perceive her as a villain? Will they have sympathy for Kerrigan?

"The judges know they have to be spot-on," said Scott Hamilton, the 1984 Olympic champion and now a television, figure skating analyst. "They don't want to be wrong. They don't want to come up

with a mark that's way off-base, especially with so much focus on skating."

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Jansher upset

CARDIFF, Feb 23: World champion Jansher Khan crashed to a sensational defeat against unseeded Peter Nicol of Scotland in the second round of the Welsh Classic on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Beaten just three times since the start of 1992, the Pakistani went down 17-14, 15-8, 11-15, 15-11 in 81 minutes to a player not ranked in the world top 100 a year ago.

The 20-year-old Scot rose from 40th to 14th in the last ranking list, but lost 3-0 to Jansher in the World Open in Karachi only last November.

He played very well, but the referee lost the match for me. He gave terrible decisions at vital times and I think I will make a protest about him, said Jansher.

But I did not play as well as I can. I felt tired and I think I made a mistake by playing exhibition matches in Portugal last week instead of training.

"I shall make sure I am ready for the Portuguese Open next month."

Nicol said the referee, Dave Garrod from Swindon, England, was fine and fair.

"I thought from the flimsy game that I would win. He seemed slow to me and I think he has put on some weight."

He was explosive in Karachi, but there was no fire in him tonight."

Jansher's last defeat was at the hands of Rodney Martin of Australia in the Hong Kong Open semifinals in August. His only other Australian, Rodney Eyles in Portugal last March.

Saen stuns Griman

BANGKOK, Feb 23: Thailand's Saen Sor Ploenchit scored a unanimous 12-round decision to capture the World Boxing Association flyweight crown from David Griman of Venezuela Sunday, reports AP.

The Venezuelan opened a cut above Saen Sor's left eye in the fourth round and made some use of his height and reach advantage. But the Thai came back two rounds later to bloody his opponent's right eye and proved the tougher boxer over the next six stanzas.

The judges scored 114-115, 112-117 and 111-120 in favour of the eighth-ranked challenger. It was Griman's third defence of his title, which he won in 1992.

The 23-year-old Thai, who turned professional in 1991, had impressed with bouts against Mexican and Filipino boxers.

The bout was staged in Chachoengsao, a province near Bangkok.

Booter's crusade against strife

SOCHAUX, France, Feb 23: Faruz Hadzibegic, the Bosnian captain of French First Division side Sochaux, is leading attempts to get his strife-torn homeland recognised by soccer's world governing body, reports AP.

The Sarajevo-born defender, one of the carriers of the Olympic flame when the city hosted the Winter Games 10 years ago, says he is making soccer his weapon to help end the suffering.

Now 36, Hadzibegic is near the end of a soccer career in which he was once the pillar of the Yugoslav national defence. Since the splintering of the republic he has turned his attentions to helping those still in Bosnia.

He once rented a plane to go and get refugees out of the republic. About 20 Bosnians have been living at his home in Sochaux since the start of the conflict.

Last month, Hadzibegic met the International Football Federation (FIFA) general secretary Joseph Blatter to plead the case of the unofficial Bosnian Association for Recognition.

The player said he was helped by FIFA officials to prepare his case.

Lillehammer games notebook

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 23: Tributes to Sarajevo will come in various forms over the last few days of the Olympics.

More than 40,000 torches with the inscription "Remember Sarajevo" will be handed out to spectators at the closing ceremony Sunday. The torches will be lit simultaneously after the Olympic flame is extinguished as a reminder of the war-ravaged Bosnian city, reports AP.

One of the victims of the atrocities of the war, Sead Bekric, will attend the closing ceremony. Bekric, 46, suffered severe face wounds last April when he tried to help school friends injured by Serb artillery. He was sent to the United States for treatment.

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, the bronze medalists in the ice dance event, will perform their "Bolero" routine in Saturday's

skating exhibition. That routine became famous at the 1984 Games when they scored nine perfect 6.0's for artistic impression to win the gold medal.

NORTHERN LIGHTS: Visitors to the Olympics got an unexpected bonus Monday night with a display of the aurora borealis — the northern lights — after midnight. The Northern Lights is part of the official emblem of the Lillehammer Games.

This natural phenomenon is caused by the interaction of electron particles from outside the atmosphere with atoms of the upper atmosphere in zones surrounding the earth's magnetic poles.

Norway is close enough to the North Pole to have these luminous bands and arcs in the sky. Colours come and go and the rays diffuse into the night.

RECORD SALE: Triple gold

winning speedskater Johann Olav Koss got 75,000 kroner (dfls 10,000) for a secondhand T-shirt on Tuesday. It wasn't even his.

The prized T-shirt, which cost about 75 kroner (dfls 10) to make, belonged to a local business. The company paid 56,000 kroner (dfls 7,500) at an auction, and then gave it to Lillehammer Olympic Aid, a group founded at the 1992 Albertville Games to help the 1984 Winter Olympic city of Sarajevo.

It was the last Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee official countdown T-shirt. There was one, with a clock and the number of days left, for each of 1,000 days prior to the Feb 12 opening ceremony.

And it was auctioned off by Koss, a national hero.

But Olympic Aid can't seem get rid of the T-shirt.

The shirt's second owner, Norwegian shipowner Knut Kloster, followed the example of its first owner and immediately gave it back to the group.



American skaters Nancy Kerrigan (R) and Tonya Harding practice during their early morning training session at the Hamar Amphitheatre yesterday. — AFP photo

Wasmeier steals the show

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 23: Markus Wasmeier of Germany won his second gold medal of the Winter Games on Wednesday, capturing the men's giant slalom in the closest Olympic Alpine finish ever. The showdown between Alberto Tomba and Kjetil Andre Aamodt fizzled, reports AP.

Wasmeier, suddenly transformed from journeyman to superstar at age 30, beat Urs Kaelin of Switzerland by two hundredths of a second.

Christian Mayer of Austria, leader after the first run, ended up with bronze to earn his country's first Alpine medal of these Games.

Sergei Tepeikov of Russia combined perfect shooting with a strong finishing kick to win the men's 10-kilometre biathlon sprint and earn his first Olympic title.

Canada's Myriam Bedard captured her second Olympic biathlon gold medal, edging Svetlana Paramygina of Belarus by just 1.1 seconds in the women's 7.5-kilometre sprint.

Valentyna Tserbe of Ukraine shot clean to take the bronze medal, 1.2 seconds behind Bedard. It was the closest finish for the medals in women's Olympic biathlon history.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Wear away	Janet	12 Deceitful sort
1 Rubber-tree plant mover	39 Took a drive	59 TV's "Galloping Gourmet"	19 Fluffy accessory
4 Stomach muscles, for short	41 Virgilian protagonist	60 Work unit	21 "Town"
7 Adverse destiny	43 Architect I.M.	61 Fresh	23 Hardly 61
11 Courted	44 Host	DOWN	25 Across
13 Snapshot, for short	46 Garlic segment	1 "Oh, woe!"	26 Luminary
14 Gumbo	50 Prosperity	2 Approach-	27 Dismissing
15 Farming prefix	53 "the fields..."	3 District, abbr.	28 Flushing stadium
16 Sheepish remark	55 Author Hunter	4 Police-alert	29 Take on
17 Second-hand	56 Tom Joad, for one	5 Prejudice	30 Bard's river
18 Woody plant	57 Chiang -shek	6 Seek a massive profit	31 Intention
20 Unkempt sort	58 Attorney General	7 Nested pots	35 Bush's party, abbr.
22 Greet the villain		8 Sanctions	38 Corn serving
24 Beats		9 Mined find	40 P.I.
28 Donna of the Cabinet		10 Incensed	42 - screen
32 Fix a stubborn ribbon			45 Datum for a wine connoisseur
33 Apiary structure			47 It takes the cake
34 Unearth			48 Windmill blade
36 Farm building			49 Sufficiently, poetically
			50 Stir-fry item
			51 Scratch (out)
			52 Ventilate
			54 Set up

CRYPTOQUIP

IGIVNZHVHTB'C XTPWUNIZ,
TN CVUQQG, HC KIZE
WQQX TN VPZZIBN IKIBNC.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: PREMIER COLLECTOR OF TENNIS TROPHIES HAS A SET OF THEM.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: V 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.

Solution time: 24 min.

K	A	P	O	K	K	O	J	A	K		
D	E	V	I	N	E	A	R	O	M	A	S
A	R	I	S	E	N	T	E	N	U	R	E
U	M	A	S	T	A	I	N	L	A	D	
B	I	T	S	S	I	D	S	E	T	A	
S	T	E	A	M	T	I	G	H	T	E	N
G	A	G	D	I	E						
A	M	O	E	B	A	S	G	L	A	D	
L	U	N	T	S	E	W	F	L	E	A	
I	K	E	O	M	A	H	A	L	B	S	
F	L	I	C	K	A	A	L	L	O	U	
T	U	N	E	R	S	C	L	O	W	N	S
K	A	V	A	K	K	I	O	S	K		