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JUBILATION: AC Milan coach Pablo Capello is carried on the shoulders of his players Jean Pierre Papin (3rd L, jersey), Zvonimir Boban (with cap), Demetrio Albertini (C) after they retained their Italian league title for a third time after drawing 2-2 with Udinese in Rome on Sunday.

—AFP photo

## AC Milan's third in a row

ROME, Apr 18: AC Milan claimed their third successive Italian league championship on Sunday despite being held 2-2 by relegation-threatened Udinese at the Sand Stro, reports Reuter.

The result leaves Milan five points clear of their nearest rivals Juventus with two matches remaining and assures the champions of their 14th league title.

Croat Zvonimir Boban opened the scoring in the 60th minute with a powerful shot from the edge of the area, but Stefano Borgonovo pulled his side level in the 69th minute in a rare Udinese counter-attack.

Within a minute, the champions had regained the lead with a superb strike from Marco Simone, but the visitors silenced Milan's supporters with a well-worked 71st-minute equaliser by Fabio Rostito straight from the restart.

However, the home supporters found their voices again at the end of the match, flooding onto the pitch to salute the first club to win three consecutive titles since Torino in the 1940s.

"It's like a dream to me," said manager Fabio Capello. "I was convinced we would do well but I never imagined we would reach such heights."

Juventus striker Gianluca Vialli returned to form with a hat-trick in his side's 6-1 thrashing of Lazio.

## All eyes on Scherbo, Miller

BRISBANE, Apr 18: Vitaly Scherbo, the record-breaking gymnast of the Barcelona Olympics with six gold medals, begins his World Championship assault in the apparatus qualifying here Tuesday, reports AFP.

Scherbo, from Belarus, who was the all-round Olympic champion two years ago, competes on the floor and pommel horse on the opening day of the 29th World Championships.

It was a rare mistake on the floor at Barcelona that cost Scherbo a further medal when he put his hand outside the square upon landing, to be docked a 0.10 point penalty, dropping him to sixth place.

Scherbo, the star drawing card here this week, captivated the gymnastic world when he became the most successful gymnast at an Olympic Games winning gold in the pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars, the all-round title and, for his part, in the unified winning men's team. The Belorussian will be defending the world all-round crown and the pommel horse and vault titles from last year's World Championships in Birmingham, England.

One of Scherbo's chief rivals, Italian Yuri Chechi, will be assessing his title claims against the Belorussian in the two apparatus events.

Yet despite his pre-eminence, Scherbo remains unsponsored in his homeland and receives a 50-US-dollar monthly allowance from the Belarus government.

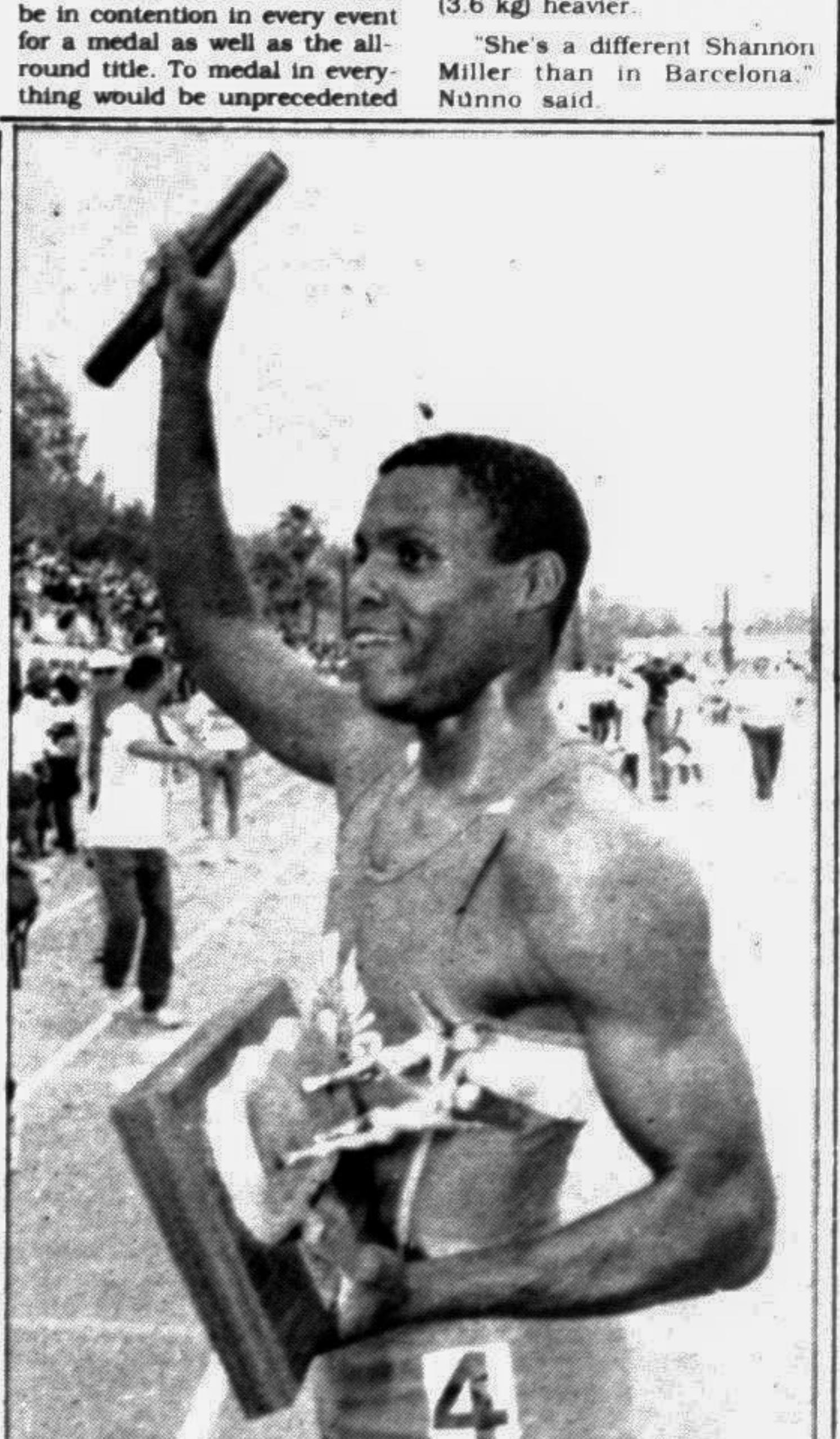
Meanwhile, American Shannon Miller, the women's world all-round champion, will unveil two moves never previously attempted at the Brisbane Championships.

Her coach, Steve Nunn, said Monday the 17-year-old Miller, already America's most successful gymnast with five Olympic and five World Championship medals, would be a medal contender in each apparatus — beam, bars, vault and floor — this week.

She won gold on floor and uneven bars, as well as the all-round competition, at last

weekend.

—AFP photo



American track star Carl Lewis waves to the crowd after anchoring his Santa Monica Track Club to victory in the 4x100m team relay at the Mt Sac relays on Sunday.

—AFP photo

## Maradona 40 pc fit

SANTA ROSA, Argentina, Apr 18: Diego Maradona revealed here on Sunday he was only 40 per cent fit — but would start Argentina's home friendly against Morocco next Wednesday, reports AFP.

He said he had agreed with Argentinian coach Alfio Basile to begin the match, adding: "I don't know if I will play for just the first half or for 60 minutes."

"I'm only 40 per cent fit — it would be arrogant of me to say I was already ready for the World Cup after just a week of training."

## Hissou Morocco's hero

LITOCHORO, Greece, Apr 18: Morocco scored a convincing victory over Ethiopia in the second International Amateur Athletic Federation road relay on Sunday thanks to an outstanding run by Salah Hissou in the six-man team event, reports Reuter.

The men's race ended the two-day relay festival following the women's race on Saturday which was won by Russia.

Hissou, 23, broke open a close race with a very fast 10.10 kilometres fourth leg to give Morocco their success. Defending champions Kenya finished in third place behind the Ethiopians.

Morocco won the marathon-distance race of 42.195 kms run over six leg in 1 hour 57 minutes 56 seconds, nearly two minutes faster than Kenya's winning time two years ago. Ethiopia was clocked at 1:58.51 and Kenya 2:00.51.

Hissou's run spearheaded Morocco's win after youngster Hicham el Guerrouj, 19, had put the Moroccans in control. The positions of certain players like strikers Luis

Vialli, absent for most of the season with a foot injury, gave his side the perfect start when he outjumped the Lazio defence in the fifth minute to head Juventus in front.

The Turin side went two-up in the 11th minute when defender Roberto Baccini turned a cross from Angelo di Livio past his own keeper before Germany's Juergen Kohler added a third.

Italy's Giuseppe Signori claimed a second-half consolation goal for Lazio — his 21st of the season — before Vialli, with goals in the 74th and 83rd minutes, and Roberto Baggio completed the rout.

Sampdoria warned up for next week's Italian Cup final against Ancona with a 3-1 win against UEFA Cup finalists Internazionale.

Since Capello took charge in mid-1991, Milan have won three Italian championships and lost just four league games.

"This was undoubtedly the most difficult of the three titles," said Capello after the match. "The margin of superiority over our rivals was not so great as in the past."

At first against Udinese, Milan showed signs of their single failing this season — and inability to find the net.

They had to wait for an hour before beating Udinese's inspired goalkeeper Graziano Battistini.

Daniele Massaro slipped his marker on the left and swung over a high, swerving cross which was only half-cleared, allowing Boban to fire a fierce shot for his 17th of the season.

For an American gymnast, Nunn said.

Elfin Miller is just 4ft 11in (550 cm) tall and weighs only 87 pound (39.5 kg), yet has sprouted two and a half inches (6 cm) since her Birmingham triumph and is eight pounds (3.6 kg) heavier.

"I believe that Shannon will be in contention in every event for a medal as well as the all-round title. To medal in everything would be unprecedented

LONDON, Apr 18: Two goals by Leeds United striker Rod Wallace sank London giants Tottenham Hotspur nearer relegation from the English Premier league on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Spurs, whose 2-0 away defeat to Leeds was their third in a row, are just two points above third-from-bottom Oldham, whom they visit on Wednesday and who have two games in hand.

Next Saturday, in another match crucial to their survival, Tottenham are at home to Southampton with whom they share an identical record of 39 points from 38 games.

Wallace, receiving just inside the Tottenham half, dribbled past three defenders to curl a precise, right-footed shot beyond goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt in the 61st minute.

The striker scored his 15th goal of the season when he added the second one minute from time.

Spurs defended doggedly but did not produce a single shot to trouble Leeds' keeper John Lukic.

First Division leaders Crystal Palace ensured their return to the Premier league when fellow London club Millwall could manage only a 2-2 draw at home to second-placed Nottingham Forest.

Had Millwall won, they would have climbed to third place on 67 points, 17 behind Palace with six matches to play.

## Lewis leads Santa Monica home

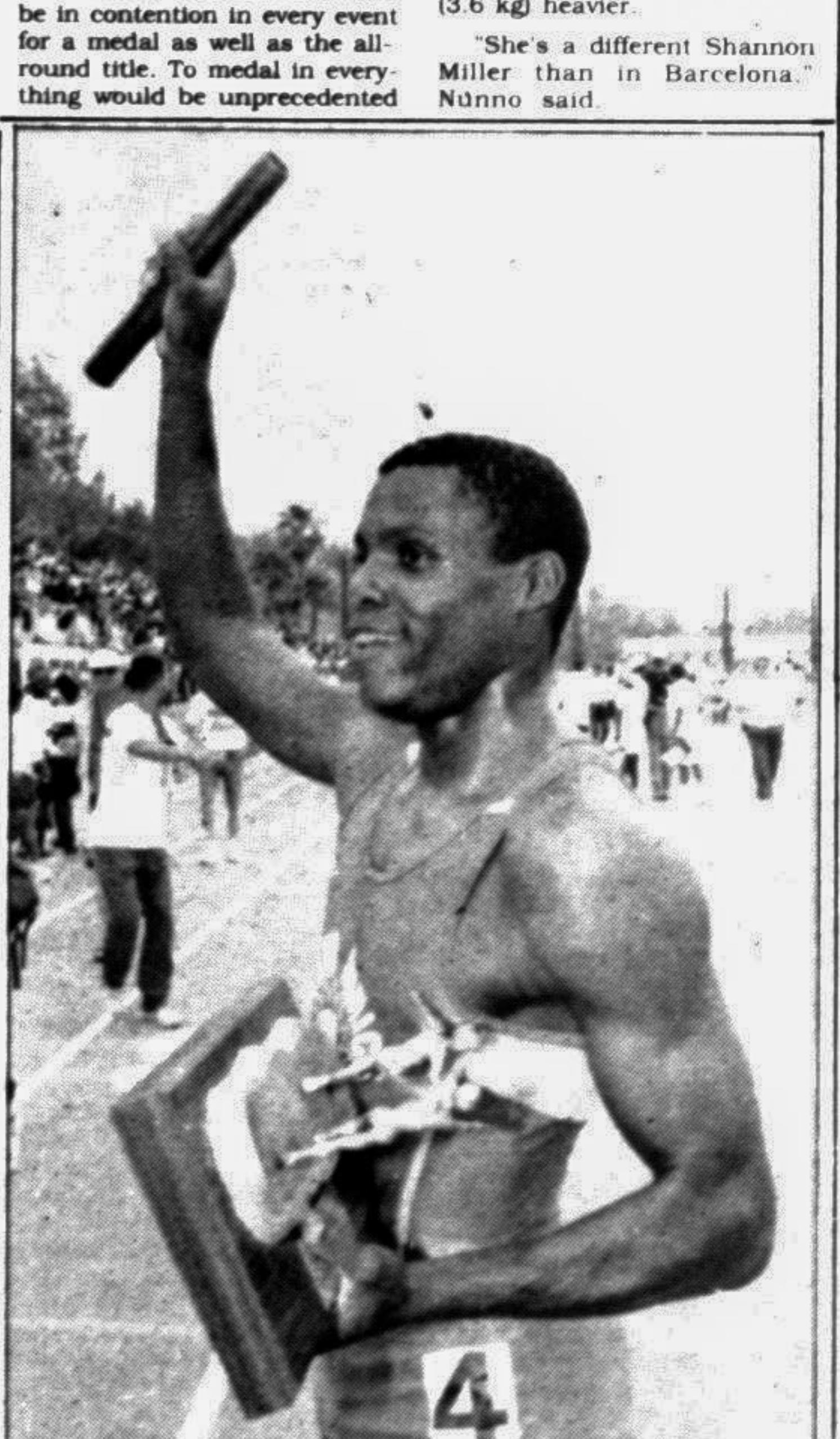
WALNUT, California, Apr 18: Carl Lewis anchored the Santa Monica track club to a narrow 4x100-meter relay victory over an all-star squad here Sunday at the Mt. Sac relays, reports AFP.

Lewis rallied in the final 30 metres to catch Denis Mitchell and take the victory in 37.9 seconds. Mitchell and the all-stars were next in 37.82 seconds.

Mike Marsh and Leroy Burrell had slight leads for the Santa Monica relay after the first two legs, but all-star John Regis caught Floyd Lloyd in the third leg and gave Mitchell a slight edge entering the last 100 metres.

John Drummond and Tony Jarrett ran the opening legs for the all-stars.

The Santa Monica foursome's time lowered their top US mark of the year, 37.89 seconds, set earlier this month in Austin, Texas.



American track star Carl Lewis waves to the crowd after anchoring his Santa Monica Track Club to victory in the 4x100m team relay at the Mt Sac relays on Sunday.

—AFP photo

## Belgians too Maginot-minded?

BRUSSELS, Apr 18: Any team which loses to the likes of Malta in their last match...

Further poor showings since — losing to Malta then struggling to beat a local amateur side in a practice match — have forced coach Paul van Himst to return to a defensive strategy with which the players feel most comfortable.

Michel D'Hooge, the president of the Belgian Football Association summed it all up with a metaphorical shrug of his shoulders.

"History proves that Belgium always performs best from the underdog position," he said.

Van Himst, 50, the country's greatest ever player who has been in charge of the national side since 1991, also knows his team's limitations and expresses them in an unusually graphic way.

"We don't have a team capable of eating another team. We can't even swallow small opponents," he said recently.

The typical Belgian game, developed in the 1970s by former Belgium and Marseille coach Raymond Goethals, relies on a solid defensive block and physical strength to compensate a lack of attacking power.

This will be their fourth successive appearance in the World Cup finals and they look a fair bet to survive a first round grouping against neighbours and old rivals Netherlands, Morocco and Saudi Arabia. What happens after that is anyone's guess.

Newspapers described the loss as "shameful" and said Van Himst's team was "sick."

Van Himst agrees. "The press was right. Never in my career as a player or coach have I seen a national team bungle like ours in the first half-hour against Malta."

The positions of certain players like strikers Luis

Oliveira, who plays for Cagliari in Italy, and Luc Nilis of Anderlecht are now in doubt

after too many unimpressive performances for the "Red Devils", as the Belgium team is somewhat inappropriately nicknamed.

Over the last twenty-five years Belgium has produced a stream of fine players and men like Standard Liege's Marc Wilmots and Antwerp's Alex Czerniatynski, who played in the 1982 World Cup finals, will provide the backbone of Van Himst's side.

But successive managers have never been able to blend the undoubted talent available into a cohesive unit, capable of securing the major prizes.

Soon after the Maltese debacle, Van Himst got a welcome surprise in March when the highly-rated Croatian-born striker Josip Weber became a naturalised Belgian.

Weber, the top scorer in the Belgian league for the last three years, should add some much-needed aggression up front.

Another likely success should be Monaco midfielder Enzo Scifo, the lynchpin of the 1990 World Cup side who has matured over the last four years, first in Torino and then with Monaco where he moved at the end of last season.

Veteran goalkeeper Michel Preud Homme was considered another world-class player but some fear he may have lost some of his skills at the age of 35 and could lose his place to Anderlecht's Filip de Wilde.

Van Himst is likely to field Parma's Georges Grun, Anderlecht's Philippe Albert and Marc Emmer, Antwerp's Rudy Smits and club Brugge's Dirk Medved in defence.

In midfield, Scifo could get the company of club Brugge's Lorenzo Staelens and Franky

van Der Elst, and Anderlecht's Marc Degryse.

One setback for Van Himst will be Albert's absence in the opening match against Morocco, after the 1992 Belgian player-of-the-year's sending-off against Czechoslovakia.

Belgium are unlikely to enjoy the soaring temperature and humidity in Orlando, Florida, where they play Morocco and Holland, and conditions probably won't be much easier in Washington where they play Saudi Arabia.

"Our main problem is that we'll play in almost extreme weather conditions. The temperature doesn't worry me too much but the humidity does," said team doctor Walter Redant, keen his players should acclimatise as early as possible.

Belgium have planned a high-altitude training session, followed by two warm-up games in Brussels against Tunisia on June 4 and Hungary four days later.

After that their great American adventure will begin.

They are unlikely to disgrace themselves and are equally unlikely to come home with the Cup.

Asked whether Belgium could reach the semifinals again, D'Hooge replied, "Why not?"

There is no obvious answer to that, but somehow the suspicion remains that Belgium could well find a way of avoiding them.

## Trinidad win

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Apr 18: Trinidad and Tobago defeated Martinique 7-2 in the finals of the Shell Caribbean Cup on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Striker Dean Pachecho scored a hat-trick for the winners.



The Daily Star

## WorldCupUSA94 Quiz Competition



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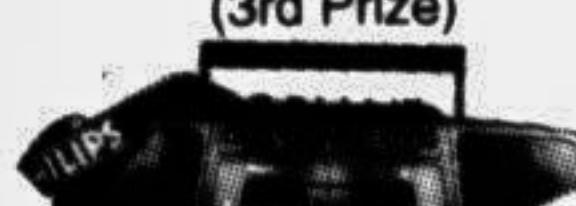
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### Quiz 2.

Read the instructions carefully. Then tick (✓) the answer which you think is correct.

- Who was the youngest player to play in a World Cup?
- How many red cards were shown in the '90 World Cup?
- Against whom did Pele score his first World Cup goal?
- How many qtr-finals went to the tie-break in '86?
- When did E Germany play in the World Cup finals?
- Which country will host the 1998 World Cup?
- Which goalkeeper has played in 5 World Cups?
- How many goals did P Rossi score in the '92 World Cup?
- How many World Cup goals did Gerd Muller score?
- What was Gerd Muller's jersey number?