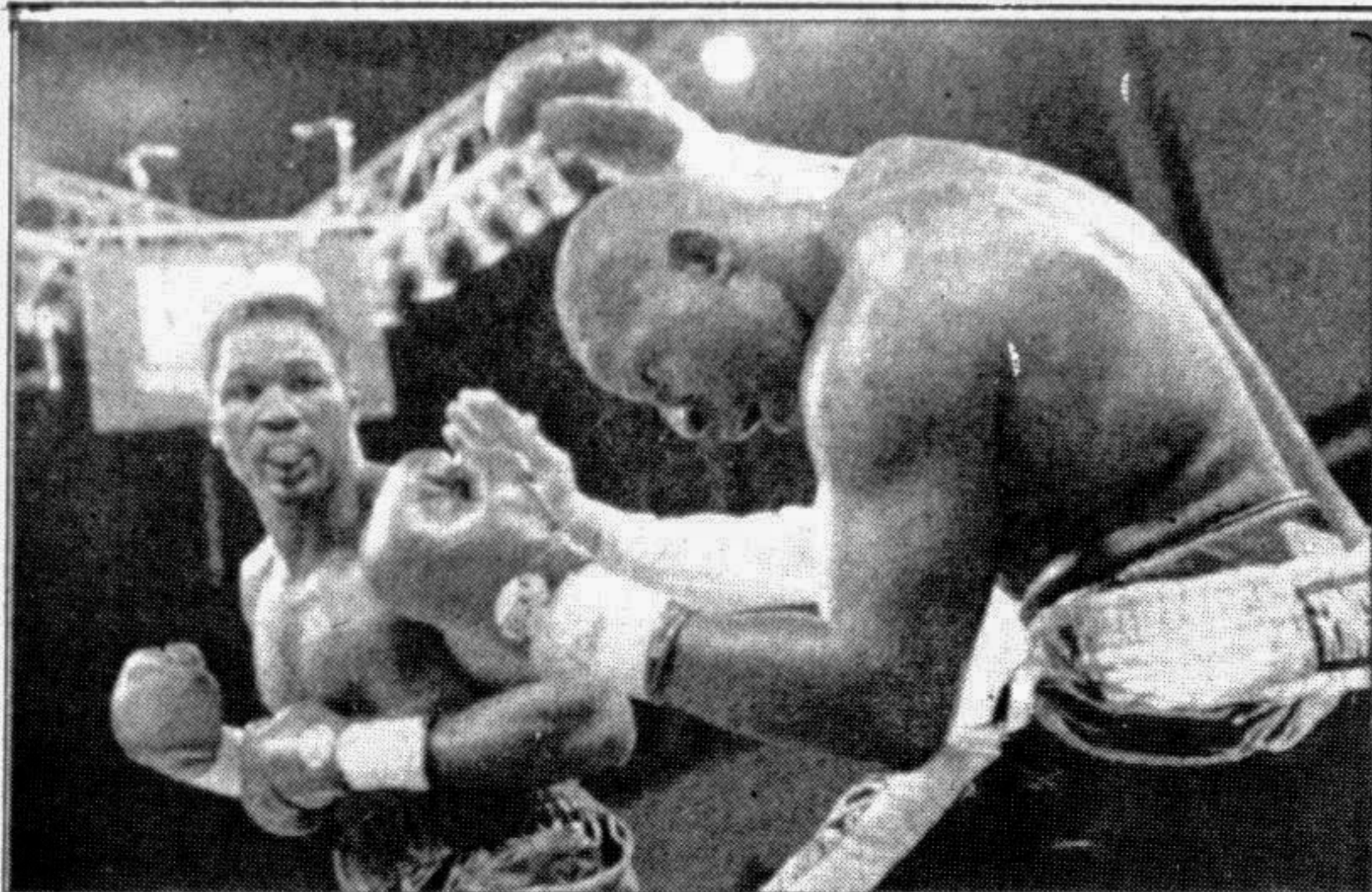


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WBC heavyweight champion Briton Lennox Lewis (L) has Phil Jackson of the United States on the ropes at the end of the fifth round of their title fight in Atlantic City on Friday. Lewis retained his crown. — AFP photo.

Lewis retains WBC title

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., May 7: Lennox Lewis stopped completely outclassed Phil Jackson at 1:35 of the eighth round Friday night, easily retaining his World Boxing Council heavyweight championship, reports AP.

Lewis had won every round when he knocked down Jackson for the third time midway through the eighth. A sharp right followed by a left uppercut did the damage and referee Arthur Mercante stepped in to end the bout.

Lewis also knocked down Jackson 20 seconds into the fight and again in a wild fifth round. That round ended with Jackson on the canvas, knocked down after the bell. Mercante deducted a point from Lewis for hitting after the bell.

Lewis, 28, of Britain, scored his 25th straight victory and 21st knockout. It was the third defence of the WBC belt he acquired when then undisputed champion Riddick Bowe dumped it in a garbage can two years ago.

Jackson, 29, of Miami, showed nothing in the biggest fight of his seven-year pro career. His theme was "Man on a Mission." But that mission never had a chance of succeeding.

Lewis, the 1988 Olympic

champion, earned four million dollars for the victory. As he left the ring, he was serenaded by some countrymen, who were waving Union Jacks and chanting, "Lennox is a champion!"

Lewis victory sets up a possible unification bout with Michael Moorer who beat Evander Holyfield last month for the WBA and IBF portions of the heavyweight title.

"I don't think Michael Moorer is going to get the respect of the world until he fights Lennox Lewis," Lewis said after beating Jackson.

Moorer, who was seated at ringside, had shown little inclination to unify the title, but Lewis probably didn't scare him on Friday night.

Lewis' first punch of the fight, a straight right, caught Jackson unprepared and the challenger went down. But he got up immediately and was not hurt.

Lewis then went to work with his jab, utilising his 7-inch reach advantage. The 6-foot-5 Lewis had little trouble keeping the 6-foot Jackson away.

In the second and third rounds, Jackson did almost nothing while Lewis stood flatfooted until late in the rounds. Lewis then landed a succession of jabs to win the third.

The fourth round was more of the same, then came the hectic fifth.

Jackson missed widely with a left-right combination, but then landed a solid combination that sent Lewis stumbling into the ropes. But Lewis landed several rights to get out of trouble and, late in the round, a powerful straight right put Jackson down near the ropes.

Jackson got up at nine and Lewis went in for the kill. Lewis apparently didn't hear the bell sound seconds later and kept throwing lefts and rights at the defenseless Jackson. Jackson went down again about five seconds after the bell and was helped up by his corner workers. Mercante deducted a point from Lewis.

Both fighters looked tired in the sixth, with Jackson doing virtually nothing. In the seventh, Mercante stopped the fight a second time to remove loose tape from Jackson's glove. Lewis then jabbed his way through the first half of the round before staggering Jackson with a right uppercut late in the round. The end appeared near.

Lewis landed several good punches early in the eighth and Jackson had nothing with which to counter. The final series of punches began with a right uppercut, followed by a straight right to the body, another sharp right and left uppercut and Jackson went down for the last time.

Jackson (30-2) earned 500,000 dollars

Parreira's fear

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 7: Brazil's national soccer coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said on Friday he was concerned the kidnapping of Romario's father could hurt the striker's performance in the 1994 World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

"Romario is a very important player for the team and I hope this does not affect his performance," the Estado news agency quoted Parreira as saying.

There is concern Romario could delay the start of his training with Brazil's World Cup squad, scheduled for May 20, or even drop out of the kidnapping is not resolved quickly.

Some 1,000 specialised police agents are coming Rio de Janeiro's slums in a massive search for Romario's father, Edevaldo de Souza Farias, who was snatched on Monday night as he left the bar he owns on the northern section of Rio.

Police said public outrage, even among the city's criminals, could help police in their hunt.

"A kidnapping, especially of someone like Romario's father, disgusts everyone," said a police spokesman. "Brazilians breathe soccer... even the bandits are big soccer fans."

The kidnapping of Romario's father came just one day after the death of three times Formula One racing champion Ayrton Senna and many distraught Brazilians were looking to a possible World Cup triumph for Brazil to compensate for the loss.

An anxious Romario had considered returning to Brazil but later decided to stay in Spain to play for his club Barcelona in this weekend's crucial league match against Real Madrid.

Local television reports said Romario may return to Brazil early next week. His two young children, who were staying with their grandparents in Rio, flew to Spain late Thursday night at the request of their father.

The kidnapers, who have demanded 7 million dollars in ransom, have not contacted the family since Thursday morning, Romario's brother said in a televised interview.

Romario is top scorer in the Spanish First Division where Barcelona are in the running for a fourth consecutive championship. They are one point behind league leaders Deportivo Coruna with two matches left.

Vogts sides with experience

FRANKFURT, Germany, May 7: Germany's coach Berti Vogts has named nine of the original World Cup winners in a 20-man squad here on Friday for their title defence, which begins in Chicago on June 17, reports AFP.

Two further names, making up the 22-man squad, will come from Stefan Kuntz (Kaiserslautern), Andreas Thom (Bayer Leverkusen), Bernd Hobsch, Thorsten Legat (both Werder Bremen), Dirk Schuster (SC Karlsruhe) and Martin Wagner (Kaiserslautern).

The original members of the squad are Rudi Voeller, Juergen Klinsmann, Andreas Dreyhe, Guido Buchwald, Lothar Matthaeus, Bodo Illgner, Juergen Kohler, Thomas Berthold and Thomas Haessler. "You need experience at a World Cup," said Vogts. "We have never had a better midfield," he added.

In his goalkeeping squad, Vogts has added Oliver Kahn (Karlsruhe) to the top keepers Bodo Illgner (Cologne) and Andreas Koecke (Nuremberg).

SQUAD

Keepers: Bodo Illgner (Cologne), Andreas Koecke (Nuremberg), Oliver Kahn (Karlsruhe).

Defenders: Thomas Berthold, Guido Buchwald, Thomas Strunz (all VfB Stuttgart), Andreas Brehme (FC Kaiserslautern), Juergen Kohler (Juventus Turin), Thomas Helmer, Lothar Matthaeus (Bayern Munich).

Midfielders: Mario Basler (Werder Bremen), Stefan Effenberg (AC Florence), Maurizio Gaudino (Eintracht Frankfurt), Thomas Haessler (As Roma), Andreas Moeller (Juventus Turin), Matthias Sammer (Borussia Dortmund).

Strikers: Karlheinz Riedle (Borussia Dortmund), Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen), Juergen Klinsmann (As Monaco), Rudi Voeller (Olympique Marseille).

ROK beat China

HIROSHIMA, May 7: Five-time Asian champions South Korea beat China 36-21 to end Chinese hopes of reaching the World Handball Championships here Saturday, reports AFP.

The Chinese men's second defeat sent them bottom of the three team group. Lee Suk-Wang led the Korean team with seven points, while Lee Sang-Sub also scored six points and Cho Chi-Hyo and Cho Young-Shin five each.

AFC presidency polls May 13 Bitter contest in prospect



KUALA LUMPUR, May 7: Malaysia's ex-king was preparing for a bitter battle with a former cabinet minister for the presidency of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) at its quadrennial polls here next week, officials said Friday, reports AFP.

Sultan Ahmad Shah of Central Pahang State, who was king in the early 1980s, is almost certain to unseat former Trade Minister Hamzah Abu Samah from the presidency of the AFC, which Hamzah has held for 14 years, AFC officials said.

They said the soccer body had tried to persuade Hamzah, who had only one nomination to defend his position at the AFC polls here on May 13, to make way for the retired king, who has amassed six nominations to challenge him.

But Hamzah had refused to throw in the towel and was reportedly canvassing for support from AFC members in Kathmandu, Nepal.

"It has always been the practice of the AFC to avoid kept contests among its members and to adopt a give-and-take attitude to avoid any ill-feeling among its members," Peter Velappan, secretary-general of the AFC, said.

AFC insiders said the soccer body was worried about Hamzah and Sultan Ahmad

holding grudges against the Confederation and one another after the polls.

"Both are old men highly respected in the sports field... we wouldn't want this contest to create any bitterness between them and within the

WC ticket sales dull in Dallas

DALLAS, Texas, May 7: World Cup organisers said on Friday they were taking steps to speed up sluggish ticket sales at the Dallas venue, reports Reuter.

After a week of feverish sales of individual tickets elsewhere, since being offered on Sunday, organisers said the Cotton Bowl still had seats available for every match — including a quarter-final — at every price.

Dallas will be the base for world body FIFA during the month-long tournament and to speed up sales. Organisers said 55 additional outlets would be set up locally.

"There's a huge capacity in Dallas," said World Cup spokesman Jim Trecker. "It (the sale of tickets) is slower there but I'd stop short of saying it's a problem."

With the exception of brief visits by champions Germany and Argentina, the venue lacks glamour team with South Korea and Bulgaria each playing twice in Dallas.

AFC," said an insider.

Sultan Ahmad, 64, is also life-president of the Football Association of Malaysia, while Hamzah, 70, is chairman of the Olympic Council of Malaysia.

Velappan said a stiff fight was also looming for the vice-presidency where four candidates — Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, Chung Mong Joon of South Korea and Mohammad Hammam Al-Abdullah of Qatar and Tadao Murata of Japan — were vying for the second top post.

"At this point, it seems that all four have no intention to withdraw, Velappan said.

He said AFC was still hopeful of averting a heated battle in the polls by getting the other delegates who will arrive from Monday to talk to the contestants.

Officials said the rivalry over who was to host Asia first World Cup finals in 2002 would dominate the five-day congress.

Velappan said on Wednesday that the president of the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) Joao Havelange would attend the congress to attempt to make peace between World Cup rivals Japan and South Korea.

Velappan and Havelange are expected to push for a new plan for South Korea and Japan to jointly stage the finals.

FIFA's threat works

ZURICH, May 7: World Football's ruling body FIFA, has withdrawn a threat to ban Cameroon from the World Cup finals which start next month, reports AFP.

FIFA had made the threat in a bid to stop the Cameroon government from interfering with the country's football association, FECAFOOT.

But FIFA secretary general Sepp Blatter told AFP on Saturday he had received a letter from Cameroon's Prime Minister Simon Achidi saying the government would not get involved with such matters.

Implicitly, it would support the election of Maha Daher as FECAFOOT president. The Authorities had previously been supporting Daher's campaign rival, Baylon Owona, the ex-president who had been sacked from FECAFOOT following allegations of poor management and fraud.

Maradona, Caniggia are there

BUENOS AIRES, May 7: Diego Maradona and Claudio Caniggia were included Friday in Argentina's roster for a pre-World Cup tour, reports AP.

Maradona, 33, played with the national team in two qualifiers against Australia last year and in an exhibition game against Morocco on April 17.

Caniggia, 27, returns to play on Monday with AS Roma of the Italian League in a post-season exhibition game against River Plate of the Argentine League. Caniggia was suspended on April 22, 1993, after testing positive for cocaine. The penalty ends Sunday.

Gullit back at AC Milan

MILAN, May 7: Following a one-year stint with Sampdoria, Dutch striker Ruud Gullit on Friday re-joined AC Milan and practiced alongside some of his old teammates at Milanello camp, reports AP.

"We parted last season although we still loved each other. Like a married couple, we decided that we wanted to stay together again," Gullit said.

The 31-year-old Dutch forward, who scored 13 goals for Sampdoria in leading them to a third-place finish in the Italian First Division, signed a one-year contract with Milan worth 1.5 billion lire (1.5 million).

Also Friday, Gullit was named as a member of the 22-man Dutch national team that will compete for the World Cup in the United States next month.

AC Milan president and premier designate Silvio Berlusconi, who had openly regretted Gullit's departure, was known to have engineered the striker's return to Milan.

"It's a pity that he can't immediately play with us. We would like to have Ruud for the Cup final in Athens," defender Mauro Tassotti said.

AC Milan will be without

Russia spike Japan

OSAKA, May 7: Russia overwhelmed Japan with its power and height at the net to score a 15-12, 15-6, 15-7 victory Saturday in the Pool A preliminary round of the volleyball World League 1994, reports AP.

Japan had no answer to the Russian team's blocking, which was led by Rouslan Olikhver, and had difficulty fielding the jump serves of Pavel Chichkine, who scored 14 points.

Sports await rebirth in SA

DURBAN, May 7: South Africa's switch to black majority rule opens up prospects of a sports bonanza for a long-isolated nation, finally smashing a white-era myth that sport and politics don't mix, reports Reuter.

Sun-drenched South Africa is an outdoors-loving nation of keen fans hoping that international acclaim will bring the country right back into the world sports arena.

ANC leaders, about to head a power-sharing government, regularly use soccer and cricket terms to describe political progress.

And President-designate Nelson Mandela used his "free at last" victory speech to invite all world sportsmen to South Africa, offering an "open arms" welcome, despite a state of emergency in one volatile region, KwaZulu-Natal.

Apartheid rulers used to insist regularly that sport and politics had to remain separated. That always had a hollow ring to it and now, with South Africa entering a multi-racial democratic era, the myth that the two can be divorced looks smashed for ever.

Athletes from all sports are watching the election results

with a keen eye, knowing that many events and a sackful of money — rests on them.

A huge sports revival looks likely if all goes smoothly in coming months as the African National Congress (ANC) leads a national unity administration. But if post-election violence escalates, then it could be curtains for a number of sports events.

Sport has played a major role in South African political life ever since the D'Oliveira affair in 1968 focused the world's eyes on the racial inequalities in South African society.

Basil D'Oliveira, a cape coloured (mixed-descent) cricketer, had moved to England and was very much in the England team set-up.

When he was picked to go on the 1968-69 winter tour of South Africa, then-Prime Minister of the republic John Vorster effectively banned him from the country, suggesting that England pick someone else.

The suggestion was turned down and that was the beginning of sporting sanctions which, although never as effective as commercial sanctions, still bit deeply into the

psyche of the ruling white supremacists.

The 1990 release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela from Robben Island after 27 years' imprisonment and the advent of sweeping changes to the apartheid regime allowed South African sportsmen back on the world stage.

The racially-separate organising unions of each sport came together in unity and ambitious development programmes to help the under-privileged players were set up.

It will take some years before these up-and-coming potential stars filter into the national teams.

There is irony that England's rugby team is arriving soon with five black players while south Africa's lineup fails to reflect a multiracial society, with only one black player, Chester Williams, in the squad.

Although participation in future events is not at risk, any civil strife by disgruntled factions after the elections will threaten South Africa's chances of providing a world sports stage.

Golfers, athletes, soccer players and cricketers will be in wait-and-see mode perhaps the rugby community has most at stake in the short-term.

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COMPETITION RULES INTRODUCTION: 1. The Daily Star World Cup Quiz 94 is a series of (6) Quiz Competitions on World Cup Football...

Quiz 4. Entries close on 16-5-94. Read the instructions carefully. Then tick (✓) the answer which you think is correct. 1. Who scored Holland's goal in the 1974 final? Neeskens [] Cruyff [] Resenbrink []