

Syrztsov steals the show

ST PETERSBURG, Russia, July 23: Sergei Syrztsov set three world records in weightlifting Saturday on the opening day of the Goodwill Games, the first major sports event in Russia since the break-up of the Soviet Union, reports AP.

Syrztsov, 28, broke his own world records in the snatch, clean-and-jerk and overall total in the 99 kilogram (218 pound) class. He lifted 191 kilos (421 pounds) in the snatch and 227.5 (501.5 pounds) in the clean-and-jerk and for a total of 418.5 (922.6 pounds).

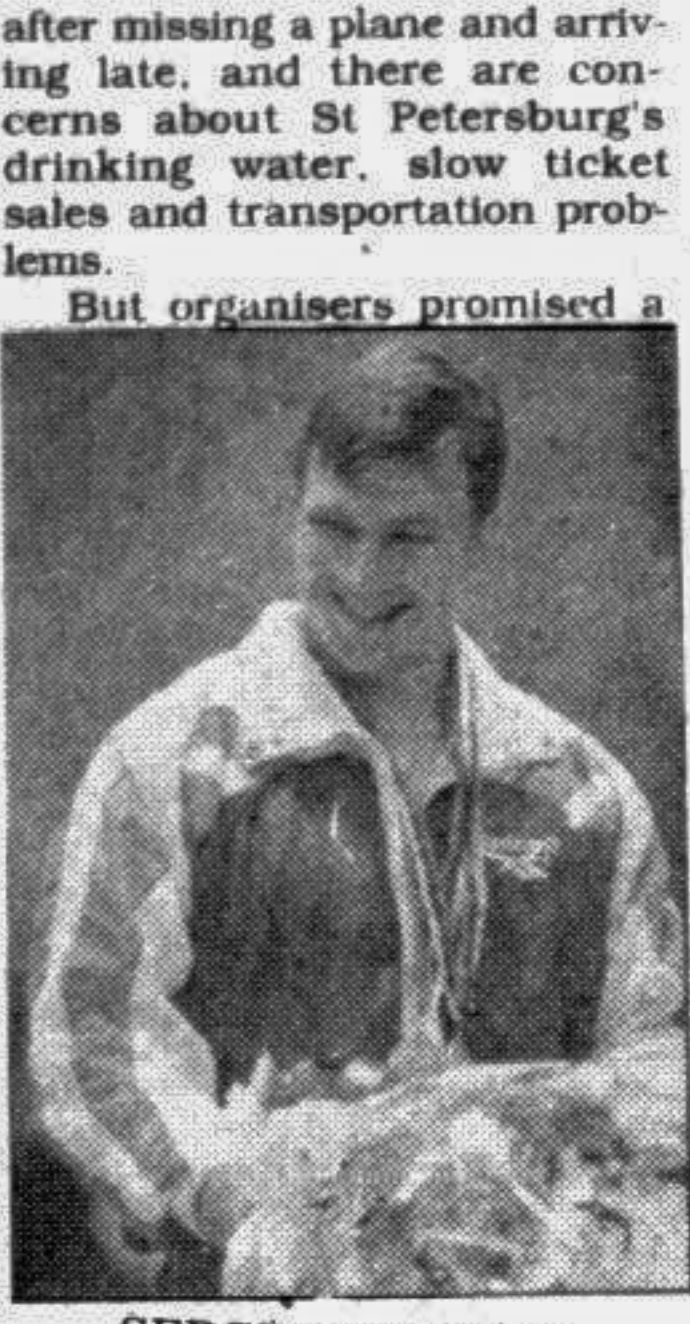
Syrztsov, silver medalist at the 1992 Olympics and 1993 World Championships, had set the previous records at the 1994 European Championships in the Czech Republic.

Competition began Saturday after two days of organizational troubles.

Officials pushed the swimming back a day to Sunday to work on a faulty filter that has left the water in the SKA pool a murky green.

Also Friday, US basketball team coach George Raveling had a fit when his team's practice was delayed because the Chinese team was scheduled to go on court at the same time.

The South Korean handball team had to cancel its game



SERGEY SYRZTSOV

near-sellout for Saturday's opening ceremonies at 70,000-seat Kirov Stadium, hoping that will build momentum and boost attendance in the 16-day event.

US swim team spokesman Charlie Snyder tried to be positive, noting that a one-day delay in swimming was nothing compared to recent changes in Russia.

"Considering all else that's happened in this country, this little delay isn't a big deal," Snyder said. "But putting it off a day was the only way to go considering the water."

US 50-metre world record-holder Tom Jager, who will swim against Russian Olympic champion Alexander Popov, said the move to delay the swimming was right.

"No, I wouldn't jump into that water the way it looked when I saw it," Jager said.

Despite the problems, two team handball games were played Friday, with Russia beating Spain 25-23 and France topping Sweden 27-22.

Even without swimming, Saturday's first day of competition was full with men's and women's beach volleyball, men's basketball, weightlifting and boxing.

These are the third Goodwill Games, founded by Atlanta media tycoon Ted Turner. The 1986 Games in Moscow and Seattle in 1990 combined for a loss of more than 60 million. Kelly said officials no longer hope to break even in St. Petersburg.

Russia is spending 75 million on the Games, mostly for renovation of the 11 competition sites for more than 2,000 athletes from 55 countries.

Colonial Classic, a thorny issue

SYDNEY, July 23: Former Wimbledon champions Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg and Michael Stich have been unwittingly drawn into a dispute over a rebel tournament which has badly strained relations within Australian tennis, reports Reuter.

Tennis Australia, the game's national governing body, is unhappy over plans to stage an unsanctioned exhibition event, the Colonial Classic, before the Australian Open next January.

Becker, Edberg and Stich have already made commitments to play in the three-day tournament at Melbourne's Kooyong Club, say organisers.

But the dates clash with the New South Wales Open in Sydney, the traditional warm-up tournament for the Australian Open which is sanctioned by Tennis Australia and the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

"If this event (the Colonial Classic) is allowed to go ahead, it could bury tennis in New South Wales," an unnamed ATP official was quoted as saying in the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper today.

Tennis Australia president Geoff Pollard expressed his disappointment over the timing of the event so near to the Australian Open at Melbourne's Flinders Park.

"Running an exhibition event in the same city as a major tour event is against the spirit of the rules," Pollard said in a statement.

His criticism was echoed by Tennis Australia's chief general manager, Trevor Dohnt, who said: "The Kooyong organisers are not acting in the interests of Australian tennis," the Herald reported.

The Colonial Classic, to be held between January 11 and 14, will involve a team challenge between Australia and the rest of the world.

Tournament promoter Colin Stubs said current Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras or losing finalist Goran Ivanisevic would complete the rest of the world team.

Stubs said the exhibition event had been organised in response to requests from the players.

He said they wanted an outdoor, three-day warm-up event in Melbourne played on rebound ace, the same surface as used at Flinders Park.

"It is not my fault that the players do not want to play in the New South Wales Open," Stubs told Reuters. "I am just responding to market forces."

Edberg stays on course

WASHINGTON, July 23: Second-seeded Stefan Edberg took advantage of numerous unforced errors and breezed to a 6-4, 6-1 quarterfinal victory over Aaron Krickstein at the \$50,000 Legg Mason tennis classic on Friday night, reports AP.

Edberg will face Byron Black of Zimbabwe in one of Saturday night's semifinals, while Todd Wheaton goes against 14th-seeded Jason Stoltenberg of Australia in the other.

On Friday, Black defeated Sweden's Thomas Enqvist 7-5, 6-4. Wheaton downed Australian Michael Tebbutt 6-4, 6-4, and Stoltenberg eliminated New Zealand's Brett Steven 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 6-3 in a match delayed three times by rain.

The eighth-seeded Krick-

stein seemed uncomfortable with Edberg's serve-and-volley style.

He lost service five times, had three double-faults and converted on just 16 of 49 (33 per cent) return points.

"I didn't get many first serves in, and if you don't do that, there aren't many people who can beat him," Krickstein said. "It might've been the same result, but if I had served better maybe I could've challenged him more."

Edberg had a few problems with his serve, double-faulting five times, but gained control of the tempo, frustrating Krickstein in the process.

"I just tried to play my game, and went to the net as much as I could," Edberg said. "You don't want to volley with Aaron because he'll run you all over the court."

Wheaton and Tebbutt entered their match 1-2 in the field with 46 and 43 aces, respectively.

Wheaton, who ripped off 21 aces in his third-round victory Thursday over Ivan Lendl, added 11 more against the 21-year-old Australian, who was the last of eight qualifiers in the 56-player field.

Tebbutt started fast, racking up seven of his 14 aces in his first three service games. However, he double-faulted twice in the seventh game, opening the door for Wheaton.

Wheaton turned it on in the second set, ripping off three straight aces in the sixth game, then took advantage of another service break by Tebbutt to open a 5-4 lead, before serving out the match with a pair of aces.

"I thought I came out serving the ball very well," Tebbutt said. "I had my chances to come back in the second set, but I got a little bit lazy and couldn't take advantage."

Charge of the light brigade

MAHWAH, New Jersey, July 23: Nino Louarsibishvili of Georgia, Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland and American Lisa Raymond all advanced to the semifinals of the \$50,000 Legg Mason women's tennis classic by knocking off higher seeds on Friday, reports Reuter.

The fourth quarter final match was suspended by rain with top-seeded Steffi Graf, a four-time champion here, holding a 3-2 lead on a service break against seventh seed Pam Shriver of the United States.

Louarsibishvili beat eighth seed Marketa Kochta of Germany 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 6-1, the fifth-seeded Maleeva-Fragniere stopped third seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-4, 6-3 and Raymond defeated fourth-seeded Czech Helena Sukova 6-1, 7-5.

Graf and Shriver will resume play this morning with the winner to face Maleeva-Fragniere, the champion here in 1987, in an afternoon semifinal. Louarsibishvili, who upset 1993 Wimbledon finalist Jana Novotna in the second round, and Raymond will clash in the other semifinal.

Louarsibishvili, who failed to

hold on to a 5-2 lead in the first set, rallied to defeat the 45th-ranked Kochta, using a strong serve and powerful ground strokes from the backcourt to overwhelm the German in the final two sets.

"This is the best week for me as a pro," said Louarsibishvili, last year's world junior champion, turned pro last summer.

Maleeva-Fragniere rallied from a 2-4 deficit in the first set to eliminate Coetzer.

"Actually, I wasn't sure that I was going to play at all because I hurt my back in practice earlier," said the 27-year-old Maleeva-Fragniere, who was ranked in the top 10 when she retired in February.

"When I was losing in the first set, I had pains and I figured that I would finish the set and quit. But I started to win games and it became fun again, so I continued."

Maleeva-Fragniere is no longer ranked while Coetzer is number 13.

Raymond, ranked 54th, outplayed Sukova in the first set, rolling to a 4-0 lead with skillful passing shots. The 19th-ranked Czech star rebounded in the second set to stay even through 10 games before being broken in the 11th with the help of a controversial line call.

"I wasn't sharp in the beginning, but the bad calls in the second set were too much to overcome," said Sukova.

LOUARSIBISHVILI, a 17-year-old from Tbilisi ranked 241st in the world, "It makes me feel that I can play with the top players."



Britta Becker of Germany (L) tries to get round Australia's Renita Farrell during their World Cup women's hockey semifinal match in Dublin on July 22.

Flamenco beat Leeds

KUALA LUMPUR, July 23: Magno scored a 74th-minute goal, two minutes after John Pemberton had tied it, giving Brazilian club Flamengo a 2-1 victory over English club Leeds United on Thursday and putting it in the Malaysia Invitational final against Bayern Munich, reports AP.

Rodrigo Santos had given Flamengo the lead in the first half, but Pemberton's goal equalised for the English club.

Argentina in eves' hockey final

DUBLIN, July 23: Argentina reached the final of the women's hockey World Cup for the first time since 1976 when they beat the United States 2-0 on Friday, reports Reuter.

Both goals in the first semifinal came during the second half which the skillful Argentines dominated. Karina Masotta scored the first and Vanina Oneto the second.

The first half was a total stalemate with neither side winning a penalty corner or getting in a shot.

But the Argentines upped their game at the start of the second half and opened the scoring from their third penalty corner in the 47th minute.

Masotta was quickest on to the rebound after a Sofia Mackenzie shot and whipped the ball into goal.

The long-striding Kelly James threatened for the Americans on a few occasions but the Argentine defence, in which Mackenzie tackled superbly, refused them any openings.

Five minutes from time Masotta brushed past several defenders to lay off the ball to Oneto who placed her shot perfectly for her fourth goal of the tournament.

Argentina's opponents in Sunday's final will be 1988 Olympic champions Australia, 2-0 semifinal victors over Germany.

Right link Renita Farrell gave the Australians the lead in the 11th minute. Michelle Andrews added the second, following up at a 66th minute penalty corner.

The Germans were restricted to a few breaks down the left in attack. They were awarded seven penalty corners, one more than Australia, but they were well defended.



Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario exults after beating Japan's Kimoko Date during their Federation Cup tennis quarter-final match in Frankfurt on July 22. Sanchez won 6-3, 2-6, 8-6.

Top seeds sail into semis

FRANKFURT, July 23: Form is holding at the Federation Cup women's tennis tournament, with the top four seeded countries advancing to Saturday's semifinals, reports AP.

Top-seeded Spain, the second-seeded US team and No. 4 Germany all moved ahead with 3-0 victories — two singles and a doubles win.

Third-seeded France battled the sixth-seeded Bulgarian sister team of Katerina and Magdalena Maleeva, finally winning the doubles for a 2-1 advantage.

France's Julie Halard outlasted Katerina Maleeva 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 before Mary Pierce, ranked eighth in the world, lost to Magdalena, the youngest of the three Maleeva sisters, 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 6-4 in a struggle lasting more than 2 1/2 hours.

That sent the outcome to the doubles, where Halard and Nathalie Tauziat rescued France, defeating the Maleeva sisters 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 in a two hours match.

Spain meet Germany and the United States face France in Saturday's semifinals.

For the United States, Mary Joe Fernandez played a patient game of long rallies, waiting for Austria's impatient Petra Ritter to make mistakes before winning 6-2, 6-4.

Lindsay Davenport, ranked sixth in the world, battled from behind to overcome Judith Wiesner 2-6, 6-2, 6-2.

The experienced American

Soledad Sotomayor failed in his bid to break the high jump record a third time here when he would only clear 2.33m, reports AFP.

The world and Olympic champion jumped a record 2.43m here in 1988 and set his current record of 2.45m in July last year.

"I thought I could at least jump 2.40m but the wind and sun put me off and I couldn't get back into my rhythm," said Sotomayor who jumped 2.41m in London last week.

Olympic triple jump champion Mike Conley of the United States had a big jump of 17.67m — 30cm below Willie Banks' world mark — but enjoyed a following wind of 5m per second, more than twice the legal limit.

World 400m champion Michael Johnson missed the 300m world best by eight hundredths of a second, winning in 31.56 sec.

Hack defeated South Africa's Elna Reinach 6-3, 6-4 before Huber swept Joannette Kruger 6-1, 6-2.

The Germans also won the doubles as Barbara Rittner and Christine Singer defeated Reinach and Marianne Svardi 7-5, 6-4.

Lillehammer Games, a marketing landmark

SYDNEY, July 23: Revenue from the Lillehammer and Atlanta Olympic programmes would be close to three billion US dollars, Michael Payne, marketing director of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) forecast here Friday, reports AFP.

Lessons could be learned from successful marketing programmes such as those established for the Winter Games at Lillehammer this year, he said, and the IOC would share its experience with Sydney to help the city develop a marketing programme for the 2000 Summer Olympics.

He noted that in spite of its relatively small domestic market and Norway's population of only four million, Lillehammer had broken marketing records, with an integrated design programme helping to raise more revenue from licensing than any previous Winter Games.

Overall Olympic revenue had grown from 400 million US dollars in the four years leading to the Los Angeles Games in 1984, to the current quadrennium involving Lillehammer and the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, in which he forecast that close to three billion would come from all the Olympic programmes.

Payne discussed marketing issues here this week with the organising committee for the Sydney Games and the Australian Olympic Committee.

Negotiations for the sale of broadcast rights to the 2000 Games could be held before or after Atlanta, Payne said.

The sale of these rights is expected to generate 488 million dollars for Sydney.

Payne stressed the IOC's commitment to providing the widest possible coverage of the Olympic Games through free-to-air television.

However, there was scope to develop a second tier structure for Olympic coverage involving pay television, he said.

US to play England at Wembley in Sept

LONDON, July 23: After their success in reaching the second round at the World Cup, the United States will try to keep the momentum going and repeat last summer's victory over England when the two countries meet at Wembley in September, reports AP.

The September 7 fixture was confirmed Friday, and the Americans' first invitation to the hallowed Wembley confirms the US's progression as an international soccer nation.

It will be the first time the countries have met since the US beat England last summer under Graham Taylor.

The US team made a big impact in the World Cup finals beating Colombia and drawing with Switzerland to reach the second stage before bowing out to eventual champions Brazil.

Some of the team made an even bigger impact with European clubs, particularly the ginger-goated and wild-haired defender Alexi Lalas, who could be settled in England months before his national teammates arrive.

With most European nations engaged in qualifying for the championships, Venables and company will probably face other opposition from the Americas during their preparations, including a possible game with new world champions Brazil.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 "Oh, woe"
- 5 Letter-man's new home
- 8 Immense
- 12 Punch
- 13 Reaction of surprise
- 14 Met
- 15 "Be it ever..."
- 17 Called up
- 18 Freedom, for short
- 19 Clans
- 21 Seafood selection
- 24 Despondent
- 25 Beer ingredient
- 26 Unnamed people
- 30 Kyoto sash
- 31 William, Arthur and Sean
- 32 Yalie
- 33 Designated
- 35 Pay attention
- 36 "Buenos"
- 37 Star of many old

WESTERNS?

- 38 Atlanta squad
- 41 Energy
- 42 Resembling
- 43 "Kiss Me, Kate" song
- 48 Midwest bigwig
- 49 — Jima
- 50 Malefic
- 51 Took off
- 52 Blueprint extra
- 53 Bulletin board
- 54 Need
- 1 Onager
- 2 Card game
- Hose woes

SOLUTION time: 24 mins.

BEA SLATS BOW
OAR PADRE URI
BUMMED OUT MAP
OLD STABLE
BABBLE BELL
EMU SRA EVERT
EMMY SSS ABIE
TOPAZ ICS ENY
TWOS ALLEGE
SEISMO LEI
AGO BUMPED OFF
YOU ISLET ALL
ASS SAILS KAY

21 "— on first?"
22 Vagrant
23 Grand-scale
24 Dr. McCoy's nickname
26 Part of Ras
7 He's a little horse
8 Divergent
9 Spirited steed
10 Trig function
11 "Price is Right" decors
16 "Ferdinand" cartoonist
20 Hose woes in London
35 Village
37 Crib
38 Puffed
39 Frost
40 Related
41 String instrument
44 Barn resident
45 Future aves
46 Morrow or Tayback
47 Wapiti

CRYPTOQUIP
 H Z O G X R Q R Y O G I J C M
 W J M Z N Z J X M G I Z X H
 Q R N N Y G M M G M U G U R M
 N J M I G G W J X Z N
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: VACATIONING OPTHALMOLOGIST MAY HAVE VISITED A CAPTIVATING EYE-LAND.
 Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals P
 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.