

Mitchell's crowning glory



ST PETERSBURG, July 26: Dennis Mitchell won the battle of the sprinting giants on Monday when he raced to victory in the Goodwill Games 100 metres, reports Reuters.

The 28-year-old American has won bronze medals in two World Championships and one Olympic Games.

But despite his record he was not one of the athletes initially invited to the Goodwill Games and won a place only when Britain's Olympic and world champion Linford Christie withdrew.

Christie's absence because of a damaged hamstring inevitably devalued the showpiece event of the 24-sport Games but Mitchell can still take immense satisfaction in his victory.

"It felt great, I feel like a million dollars," he said. Mitchell clocked 10.07 against a headwind of 1.9 metres a second, world record holder Leroy Burrell was second and Jon Drummond, another of the five Americans in the race, finished third.

Carl Lewis, who held the 100 metres world record until Burrell bettered his 1991 mark of 9.86 seconds with a run of 9.85 seconds on July 6, was fourth.

Mitchell, clad in a lurid green running outfit, which, has inspired the American to dub himself the "Green Machine" went through an elaborate warm-up procedure, culminating in several sprints down the track ending with a dramatic leap into space.

A false start followed by an over-long pause in the starting position which led to the runners breaking again, prolonged the tension at the start.

Mitchell was away swiftly when the race finally began and although Burrell made his customary mid-race surge, he could not gain enough ground.

Burrell, four hundredths of a second back in second place, said: "I started slowly. I thought I came back at 60 metres and almost pulled it off."

Shortly after the race Lewis announced he was pulling out of today's long jump in which

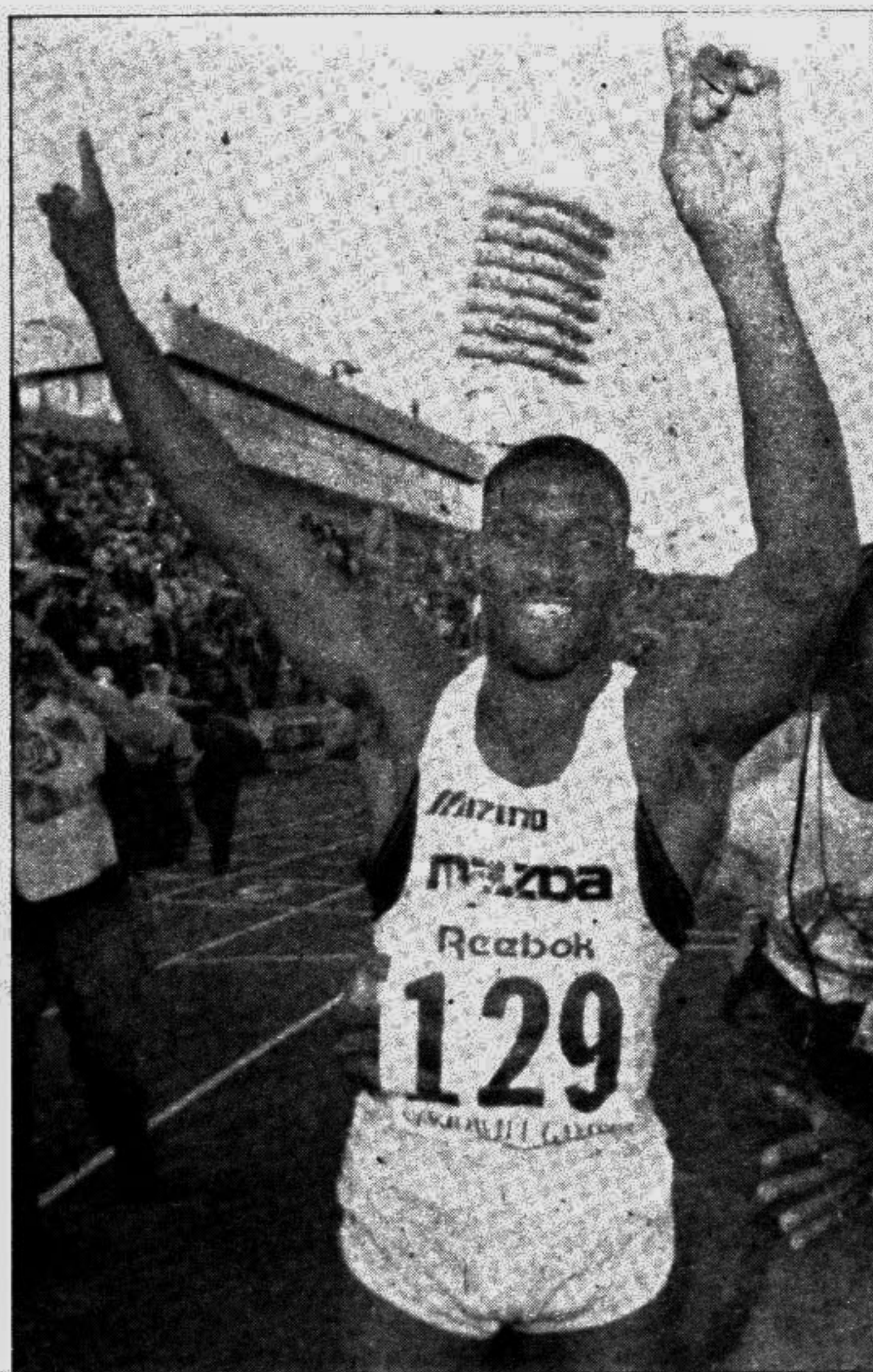
he was scheduled to come up against world record holder Mike Powell.

"I'm out," Lewis said. "My back is a little sore. If you can't feel 100 per cent you can't jump against the world record holder."

Gwen Torrence completed the women's sprint double with a convincing win over Irina Privalova and Jackie Joyner-Kersey predictably headed the field after the first day of the heptathlon, despite trailing after the shot put, her weakest event.

Ukrainian world record holder Sergei Bubka never looked convincing in the pole vault and managed only third place behind Russians Igor Trandenkov and Maksim Tarasov.

Bubka's form all season has not been convincing and at the age of 30 his best days may be over. The same may finally be true for the 33-year-old Lewis, whose best place in a major sprint in the past three years has been his 200 bronze in last year's World Championships.



American sprinter Dennis Mitchell celebrates after winning the men's 100m final at the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg on July 25. Mitchell clocked 10.07 seconds. — AFP photo

Jackie Kersee skips long jump event

ST PETERSBURG, July 26: Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the American record-holder in the women's long jump and the second-longest performer in history, has withdrawn from Thursday's long jump competition at the Goodwill Games, reports AP.

Her coach and husband, Bobby Kersee, said his wife would be too physically spent after the completion of the heptathlon Tuesday to compete in the long jump.

Instead, he said Joyner-Kersey would return home to California and prepare for a world record attempt in the long jump at Zurich, Switzerland, Aug 17.

Joyner-Kersey's withdrawal followed the decision by three-time Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis to skip the men's long jump Tuesday. Lewis has a nagging back injury and felt it would be too difficult to compete in two events in two days. He finished fourth in the men's 100 metres Monday night.

For Joyner-Kersey, this was the first heptathlon since winning her second world title last August.

Sjoberg withdraws

GOTHENBURG, July 26: Former world champion high jumper Patrick Sjoberg pulled out of the European athletics championships here on Monday, reports AFP.

His trainer Viljo Nousiainen said the Swede, who won the world title in 1987 and the Olympic silver medal in 1992, had decided to withdraw because he did not feel he could win a medal.

The athlete only got back into training last week after an operation last month on a muscle injury which forced him to miss the World Championships last year.

Cubans make it hot for others

ST PETERSBURG, July 26: Cuban featherweight Joel Casamayor finished off his Finnish opponent in under two minutes in their Goodwill Games quarter-final bout on Monday to put the Cuban juggernaut back on track, reports Reuters.

His win was typical of a night's boxing marked by big hitting, knockdowns and standing counts.

Casamayor, world bantamweight silver medalist in 1993 before moving up a category, hurled himself at Kai Kandelin from the start and the Finn took a standing count after 90 seconds.

Shortly afterwards his coach threw in the towel.

World light-welterweight champion Hector Vinent made it seven wins out of eight for the Cuban squad when he crushed Fareed Samad of the United States.

Vinent, also the Olympic gold medalist, rocked Samad with a right-hand punch to the head midway through the first round and was never in trouble against the tiring Americans.

The Cuban piled on the pressure and forced Samad to take a standing count in the second round and two in the third before the referee mercifully ended the fight.

He was joined in the semi-finals by 1993 European champion Nurhan Suleymanoglu of Turkey, who sent Germany's Enrico Thurmman crashing to the floor in the second round with the best punch of the night.

Thurmman then took two standing counts in 15 seconds and was saved only by the bell. He survived the third round but lost by a score of 6-2.

The Cuban wins helped blur the memory of a distinctly mixed Sunday for a strong squad which suffered its first defeat when lightweight Diosvelis Hurtado lost to Russia's Paata Gvaselia.

Olympic heavyweight champion Felix Savon gave further cause for concern on Sunday when he scraped into the semifinals after an unconvincing win over France's Christophe Mendy.

Oeg Saitov of Russia, bronze light-welterweight medalist at the 1993 World Championships, advanced to the semifinals by beating Russian national champion Kakha Baravi who took a standing count in the first 20 seconds.

US flyweight champion Carlos Navarro put on another great display of power punching, knocking down German Rene Schultz twice in the second round before the referee stopped the fight.

Cuban world flyweight champion Waldemar Funt received a bye.

The man he beat in the final, Khikmatulla Akhmedov of Uzbekistan, was unconvincing in his 10-9 win over Kazakhstan's Bulat Dzhumadyev and will have to box better to gain a rematch with Funt.

"He had a great chance. He had a favourable draw and could have fought for the gold," Markov said.



Ukrainian pole vaulter Sergey Bubka makes a desperate attempt to clear the bar at 5.95m during the Goodwill Games in St Petersburg on July 25. Bubka failed, and victory went to Russian Igor Trandenkov. — AFP photo

ROK judokas dominate

ST PETERSBURG, July 26: South Korea's judokas took two more titles at the Goodwill Games on Monday to make it four out of six so far, reports Reuters.

World champion Chung Hoon-Yong overwhelmed Austria's Thomas Schleicher in a one-sided final in the lightweight category up to 71 kg.

In the light-middleweight 78 kg class Yoon Dong-Six eliminated Jason Morris of the US Olympic silver medalist and third in last year's World Championships, on his way to the final.

There Yoon beat Japan's Yasuhiro Nakasima to take the gold and underline South Korea's rise to the status of major judo nation which it claimed with three gold medals at the World Championships in Canada last October.

In the day's best bout, Russia's Tagir Abdullayev overcame Canada's silver medalist Nicolas Gill in the semifinal of the middleweight class up to 86 kg, and went on to overwhelm Fernando Gonzalez of Spain in the final.

Gill and Sven Helbing of Germany took the bronze medals.

It was Russia's second gold — Vladimir Drachko won the featherweight 65 kg class on Sunday from Latvia's European silver medalist Vsevolod Zeleny.

Sunday had seen the first two golds for South Korea. Jung Sung-Sook collected the notable scalp of Gella van de Caveye, Belgium's world and European champion, on her way to winning the women's 61 kg class.

In the men's 60 kg category Kim Hyuk beat Japan's Yasuo Otoguro in the final.

The last day of the Goodwill Games judo competition today was due to include the men's 95 kg category featuring world champion Antal Kovacs of Hungary.

WTA's top 20 money winners

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, July 26: Leading money winners in women's tennis, according to the WTA tour on Monday, reports Reuters.

1. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain) 1,127,069 dollars
2. Steffi Graf (Germany) 1,077,475
3. Conchita Martinez (Spain) 918,116
4. Natalia Zvereva (Belarus) 628,146
5. Martina Navratilova (US) 519,532
6. Gigi Fernandez (US) 489,917
7. Mary Pierce (France) 357,452
8. Lindsay Davenport (US) 349,033
9. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic) 310,584
10. Lori McNeil (US) 281,382
11. Meredith McGrath (US) 249,510
12. Sabine Hack (Germany) 243,565
13. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) 241,347
14. Kimiko Date (Japan) 225,942
15. Larisa Neiland (Latvia) 222,752
16. Brenda Schultz (Netherlands) 214,532
17. Julie Halard (France) 205,721
18. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa) 203,743
19. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic) 195,455
20. Ines Gorrochategui (Argentina) 180,635

New lease of life for AIBA



ST PETERSBURG, July 26: For the first time in several years International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) president Anwar Choudhry can allow himself the luxury of a relaxed smile, reports Reuters.

After a series of crises which at one stage looked like pushing the sport off the Olympic timetable amateur boxing looks safe for the time being.

It is a far cry from the dark days of October 1988 when International Olympic Committee (IOC) head Juan Antonio Samaranch announced that boxing's future as an Olympic sport was under review.

He was speaking in the wake of the boxing tournament at the 1988 Seoul Olympics marred by several highly controversial judging decisions.

Choudhry introduced a series of sweeping changes designed to improve safety and judging standards.

He thought he had saved the day until the leak of an IOC programming committee document last December which urged boxing be dropped at the 1996 Olympics.

"I met Samaranch immediately and he assured me the report did not have the support of the IOC, he very categorically stated boxing should remain on the Olympic Games programme," Choudhry told journalists at the Goodwill Games boxing tournament.

The AIBA chief showed his new confidence about the sport when he revealed he had asked Russia to organise a permanent annual competition gathering the best eight amateur boxers in all 12 weight categories.

But although boxing seems to be safe for the time being, Choudhry admits things could still be better.

One improvement to the sport still provoking some controversy is the computer judging system which

Choudhry devised in a bid to defuse criticism that biased and incompetent referees were ruining the sport.

The system registers a punch only if three of the five judges press a button within one second of each other.

But boxers complain that judges regularly fail to spot body punches and say they have had to change their style to focus on head shots, which are noticed more easily.

Choudhry, a Pakistani who judged at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, is unmoved, saying there had been just one judging protest at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics compared to 32 at Seoul in 1988.

"The system has stood the test of time. The administrators fully believe in the system," he said. "The IOC has congratulated us about all we have done to overcome very strong doubts about the judg-

ing." But pressed on the vocal complaints about the new judging system, he concedes: "We are not worried about it but there is room for improvement."

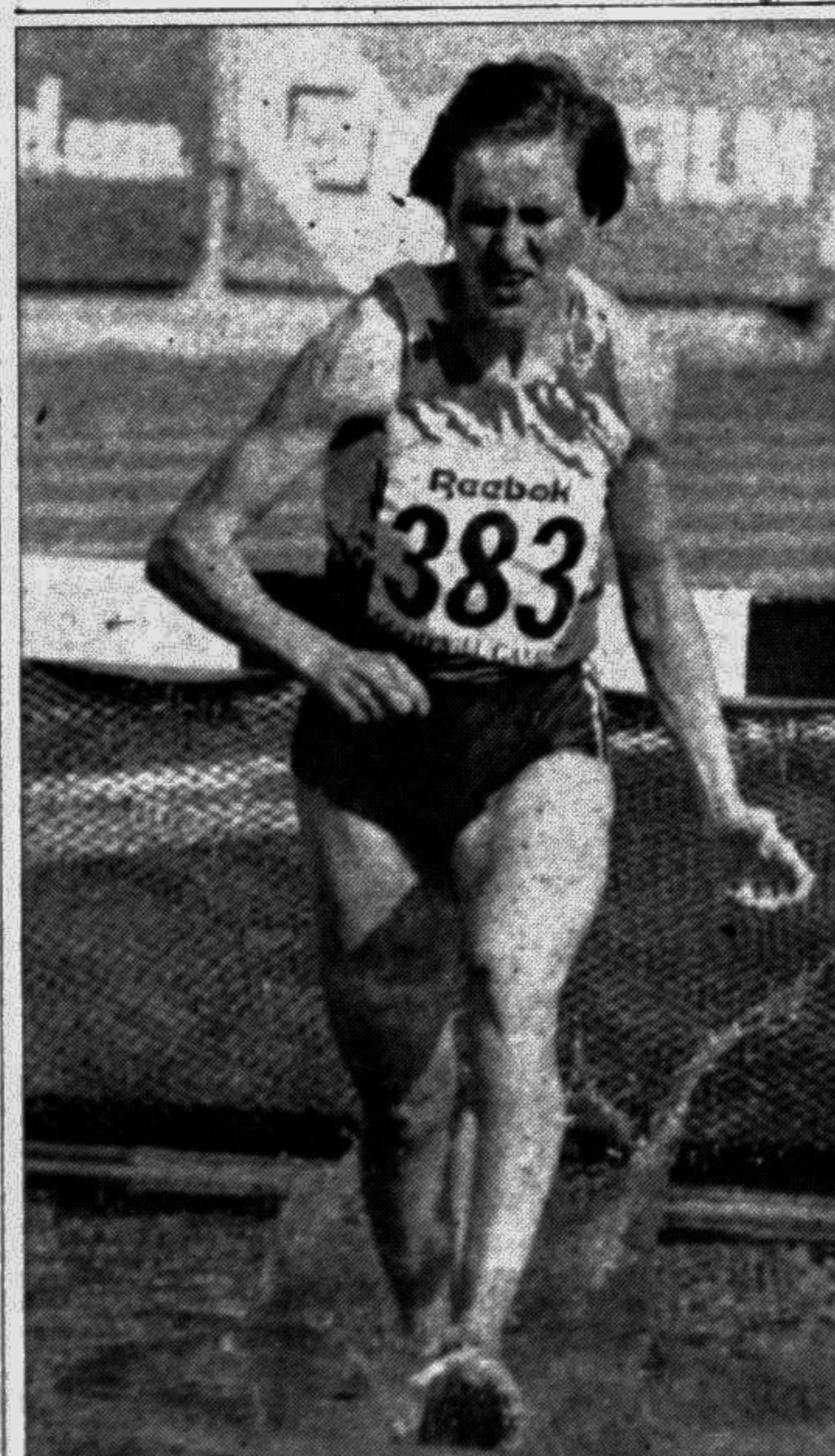
For him the computer system underlines the changing face of the sport.

"Boxers who are small do not have much chance. Today you need good height, a long reach and good footwork," he said.

Choudhry also had to deal with ever increasing criticism from doctors over the medical dangers of boxing.

AIBA paid 1.5 million dollars for a five-year study of 500 boxers which coincided with a similar study done for the IOC.

"The IOC study categorically stated boxing should remain on the Olympic programme and remained a safe sport for the youth," he said.



Russian Marina Pluzhnikova splashes through the water on her way to make a new world record in the women's 200 metres steeplechase during the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg on Monday. Pluzhnikova clocked 6 min 11 sec. — AFP photo

Tyson showed no remorse

INDIANAPOLIS, July 26: Mike Tyson has not demonstrated "even a glimmer of remorse," an attorney for the woman Tyson was convicted of raping said Monday, reports AP.

The former heavyweight champion sent a letter earlier this month to the judge who presided over his 1992 rape trial. He asked that she reconsider her decision last month denying him an early release from prison.

"Mike Tyson's recent letter to the court displays callous disregard for the trauma.

Mary, not yet merry Pierce



FRANKFURT, July 26: Mary Pierce smiled ... but she was not happy. She had clearly failed in her first major test since her dramatic eleventh-hour withdrawal from Wimbledon by losing two of her four singles at the Federation Cup, reports AP.

"Obviously I'm not happy with the way I have played here," admitted Pierce, after going down in three sets against America's powerful Lindsay Davenport to end French hopes of a first-ever place in the final of the women's team competition.

"I need to play more matches and more tournaments if I am to get back to the way I was playing at Roland Garros. But playing in the Federation Cup has been a great experience. It's been a lot of fun."

Asked what had gone wrong in the week before Wimbledon, the bright blue eyes clouded with suspicion.

"I do not want to talk about that. It is all behind me now and all that matters is the future," she said.

The 19-year-old Canadian-born French hope, the biggest attraction for the autograph hunters at the Waldstadion, went on: "My aim is to become the world number one. I am working really hard for it and I think I have the shots for it."

The problem for Pierce, who has risen to seventh in the world rankings, is that playing tennis is only a small part of her success-building schedule.

She attracts controversy like a magnet and the off-court dramas affect her game.

When Bolletieri and coach Sven Groeneveld launched the 'new-look' Pierce at Roland Garros, she appeared to have put all her troubles behind her.

She had split from her father, who was banned from attending tournaments after being bundled out of the 1993 French Open at Roland Garros for unruly behaviour, and was

now travelling with French mother Yannick.

And as she prepared for her bid to win the French title, it was clear she had been transformed from a tense player into a relaxed and happy professional.

Her spectacular record-breaking spurt through to this year's French Open final — especially her straight-sets demolition of world number-one Steffi Graf — turned Pierce into the bright new hope of a game suffering from a lack of stars with the absence of



MARY PIERCE

Monica Seles, stabbed in Hamburg in April 1993, and the arrest of Jennifer Capriati for drugs abuse.

Pierce's loss to Sanchez in the French Open final and subsequent withdrawal the Wimbledon draw was a major blow to women's tennis — but the accusations from fellow-players about her motives did nothing to enhance the game.

When she came out of hiding to join the French Federation Cup squad for pre-event training at Dinard, Pierce was involved in a new controversy. Teammates Julie Halard and Nathalie Tauziat were threatening to quit after learning that the number-one French player had been prematurely offered a special bonus to appear in the event by

French Federation president Christian Bimes.

It took a lot of behind the scenes maneuvering by much-respected captain Francoise Durr to patch things up.

Pierce certainly played her part.

She travelled with the squad without mother, coach or bodyguard, asked for no special treatment, and became "just one of the team" — sharing meals, chores and jokes with Tauziat, Halard and Alexandra Fusai.

"It is the people around the players who cause the problems," said Durr — twice a semifinalist at the French Open and the only French woman before Pierce to be ranked in the world's top-ten back in 1975.

"Mary herself is a pleasant, easy girl to be with. She can be very funny and has fitted in really well in Frankfurt."

"I haven't spoken to her about her father or about what happened at Wimbledon. They are taboo subjects," Durr went on. "But obviously she would not have been able to play her best at Wimbledon with all that was going on around her. As for the bonus payment, that was all sorted out. Certainly Mary didn't ask for any special payment or treatment."

Whether Pierce's defeats at Frankfurt — inflicted by Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva in the quarter-finals and Davenport in the semis — make her just a 'two-week wonder' remains to be seen.

But both Durr and French team coach Loic Courteau are in no doubts over the progress she has made over recent months.

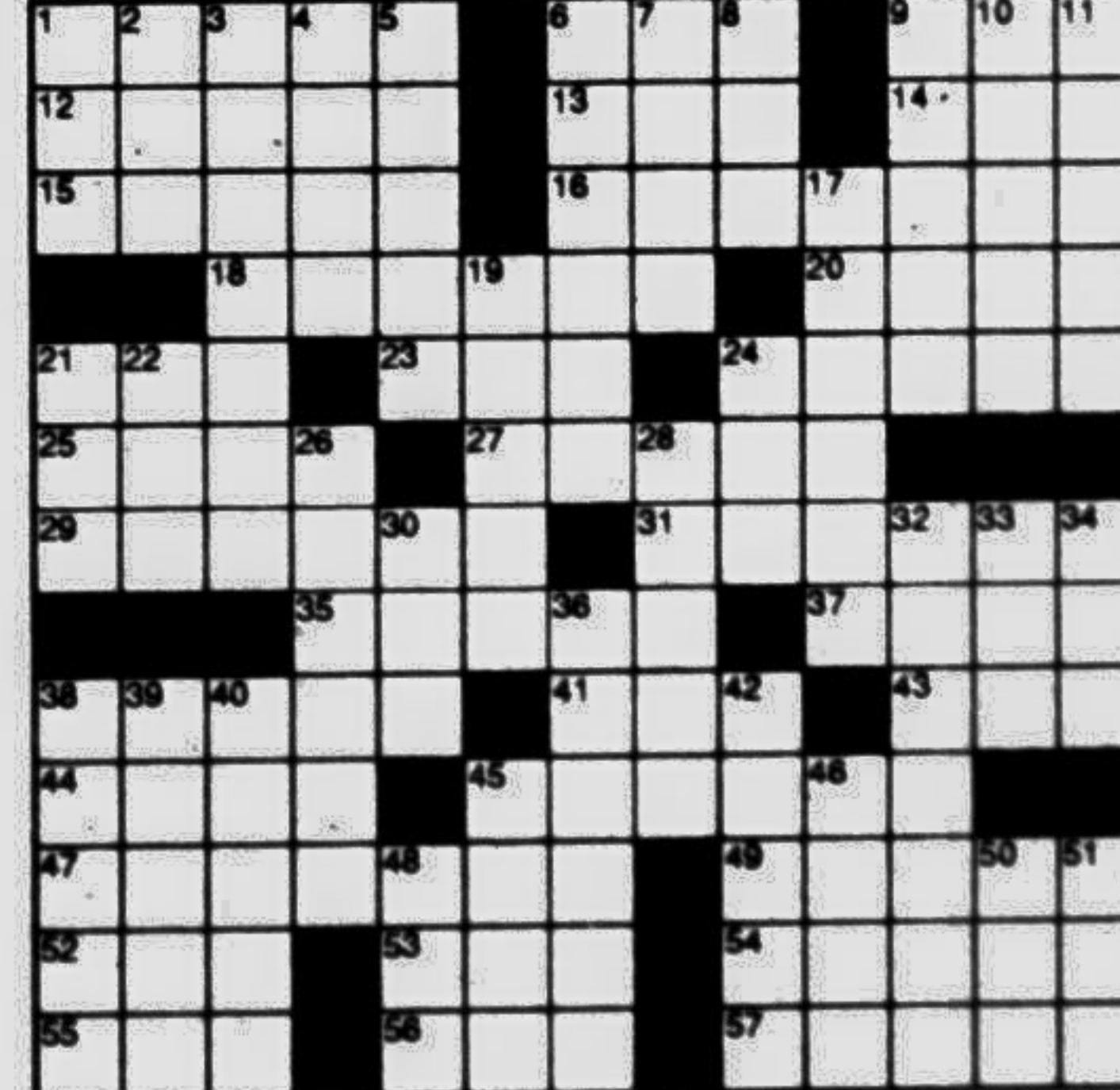
Pierce, who plans to get herself ready for hard-court tennis at Bolletieri's tennis academy in Florida over the next three weeks, will play only one tournament, in Montreal, before she bids to win the United States Open.

Women's tennis will be watching with bated breath to see if the enormously marketable Pierce can make the grade.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	44 Lend a surreptitious hand	2 Dander	21 "So that's it!"
1 More pleasant	45 Deteriorate	3 Jockey	22 Ray's partner
6 C&W singer David Allan	47 Literary weakling	4 Arab potentate	24 Tune
9 Praiseful verse	49 Egg (Sp.)	5 Proportion	26 Early Super Bowl MVP
12 Scent	52 "Got a Secret"	6 Communist honcho	28 Flight component
13 Police alert initials	53 Navigational aid	7 Piece of work	30 On pens.
14 Average	54 Outfielder's foulup	8 Suffer a recession	32 Southwestern plainsman
15 Earn	55 Intimidate	9 Milton Cross' milieu	33 Listening device
16 Quite cold	56 Boom times	10 Tends tears	34 Lamb's dam
18 Tendencies	57 Nary a soul	11 Jagged-edged	36 Body of enlistees
20 Sea flock	DOWN	17 Bicolor equines	38 Crazy
21 Copper head?	1 "China Beach" locale	19 Treasury	39 From the start (Lat.)
23 "Town"			40 Get more magazines
24 Humiliate			42 Pale
25 Cornucopia			45 Do a pre-Christmas chore
27 Private remark?			46 Continental prefix
29 On			48 Aussie bird
31 Rose's home			50 Erich — Stroheim
35 Hostess			51 Raw rock
37 Deli salad			
38 Corday's victim			
41 Inlet			
43 "Chances"			

Yesterday's answer 11-26



CRYPTOQUIP

OZBDZJSM SW MDBSNBOZY
RSSM, QWJDM HSV D
EQR JOVDH OH
VQXOZY Q PSVDEQPX

Yesterday's Cryptogram: HELP WANTED: ACCOMPLISHED WAITER NEEDED. MUST BE ABLE TO DISH IT OUT.

Today's Cryptogram clue: B equals V

The Cryptogram 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.