

O'Brien falls 1500m short

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia, July 30: Dan O'Brien has no difficulty beating his opposition. He just can't conquer the 1,500-metre race, reports AP.

"We need a victory over the 1,500 metres," coach Mike Keller said Friday, after O'Brien struggled with the final event of the 10-event, two-day decathlon for the second time in six weeks.

Going into the 1,500 at the Goodwill Games, O'Brien needed to run only 4 minutes, 40.92 seconds to break his world record score of 8,891 points. Instead, he labored around the track in a humiliating 5:10.94, and finished with 8,715 points.

"I am not in very good shape for the 1,500, and it's an event I do just because I am in the decathlon," O'Brien said. "It is so difficult to run that event when you are ahead by 650 points."

"I have to develop the mental toughness that it takes to run the 1,500."

There are Bruce Jenners out there who love that race. I have to find a liking for it."

O'Brien's disdain for the 1,500 was evident Friday, just as it was last month in the US Championships at Knoxville, Tenn., where he needed to run 4:44.29 to break the record.

His time of 5:16.42 was his slowest in 10 years.

"He ran 4:33 in the 1,500 in 1989, but maybe his memory is pretty good, and he remembers how much it hurt," Keller said. "He's got to realise the pain is there and it's always going to hurt no matter what you do. It hurts just as much to run 5:16 as it does to run 5:10."

Although he didn't break the record, O'Brien led a 1-2-3 US decathlon sweep, as Steve Fritz finished second with 8,177 points and Kip Janvrin was third with 7,908.

O'Brien's victory was one of six by Americans in track and field Friday, including a sweep of all four relays.

Michael Johnson, the 200-metre champion, anchored the US men's 1,600-metre relay team to a 2:59.42 clocking, a Gams record and the fastest in the world this year.

Gwen Torrence, the 100-metre and 200-metre champion, anchored the American women to victory in the 400 relay in 42.98, the year's fastest time.

Carl Lewis, the former world record-holder in the 100, ran the final leg as the American men's team won the 400 relay in 38.30, and 400-metre champion Jearl Miles keyed the US women's triumph in the 1,600 relay in 3:22.27, a 1994 best.

Kenny Harrison was the other US winner, taking the men's triple jump at 17.43 metres (56-7 1/4), with Olympic champion Mike Conley second at 17.25 (56-7 1/4).

Another Olympic champion, Javier Sotomayor of Cuba, won the men's high jump with a Games record 2.40 (7-10 1/2).

Overall, the US track and field team finished with 18 gold medals and a total of 38 medals, while Russia led in medals with 41, but had only 10 golds.

Keller even said that O'Brien might need a psychologist to overcome the mental block he has developed about the 1,500.

"We need to do something different than we've been doing," Keller said. "Obviously, it's not working for us. We've tried everything."

"I guess he needs a sports psychologist now."

Despite the last two deplorable 1,500s, O'Brien is confident he will run faster — when the opportunity calls for it.

Especially when he competes against 1994 world leader Eduard Hamalainen of Belarus. The two met in September at Talence, France — the side of O'Brien's world record two years ago.

"When the time comes that I need to run that race fast, I will be able to," he said.



Dan O'Brien of the United States clears a hurdle on his way to winning the 110m hurdles of the Goodwill Games decathlon competition in St Petersburg on July 29. —AFP photo

Lewis-Powell clash on card

SESTRIERE, Italy, July 30: Long-time rivals Mike Powell and Carl Lewis are preparing to meet in a long jump event for the first time since the 1992 Olympics, reports AP.

The site of the duel between the World and the Olympic champions is Europe's highest track, at 2,035 metres. The reward for Sunday's competition is a Ferrari sports car. If the winner sets a world record.

The two-seater Ferrari car, worth 200 million lire (dhs 130,000), is the top prize for the athlete setting a world mark at the Sestriere meeting, in Italy's western Alps.

The prize went unclaimed in the five previous editions and Powell said Saturday it was time to take it home.

The American jumper, long troubled by muscular problems in his right thigh, added he was ready to take risks to win the Ferrari.

Powell, who captured the long jump event at the Goodwill Games with a leap of 8.45 metres, said Lewis will not be his only rival at Sestriere.

He suggested that a third American jumper, Karen Streete Thompson, could be a threat.

Lewis, who led the US quartet to victory in the 400 metres relay at St Petersburg, chartered a helicopter to fly to Sestriere, from Milan airport, along with teammates.

Lewis, the former world record holder in the 100, was scheduled to start only in the long jump Sunday, after avoiding a confrontation with Powell at the Goodwill Games.

However, the American long jumpers are not the only athletes bidding for a world record and the Ferrari car.

Hurdlers, sprinters and women's jumpers, who can benefit from the thinner air, are likely to produce outstanding performances.

In the women's long jump the duel between Heike Drechsler and Jackie Joyner-Kersey may overshadow the men's event.

Drechsler made the longest jump in track and field history.

Darnyi feels it's time to go

BUDAPEST, July 30: Four-times Olympic swimming champion Tamas Darnyi, the most successful sportsman in Hungary's history, is quitting international competition, reports Reuters.

"I will no longer enter World Championships, either in the 200 or the 400 metres medley," said 27-year-old Darnyi in a television interview, ruling himself out of future Olympics as well.

He added: "I could have entered the World championship in Rome (in September) and maybe get a silver or a bronze, I am still good for a few minutes 16 seconds or 4:17."

"After much thought, however, I decided that I would rather not enter and retire unbeaten."

Darnyi has a superb record, including double individual medley golds at two Olympics and two World Championships.

He has won all the major championship individual medley events he has entered since 1985, but was given a tough fight for the 400 medley gold at the European Championships in Sheffield in last December by 19-year-old Finn Jani Sievinen.

Darnyi set world records for both distances at the 1991 World Championships.

Savon's punch says it all

ST. PETERSBURG, July 30: The four American boxers with a shot at Goodwill Games gold should take their lead from Cuban heavyweight Felix Savon, reports AP.

Savon, 26, got his with the one and only punch he landed in the first round to knockout Russian Sergei Machalov.

"That is the kind of punch that shows you he's an Olympic champion," said coach Alcides Sagarra.

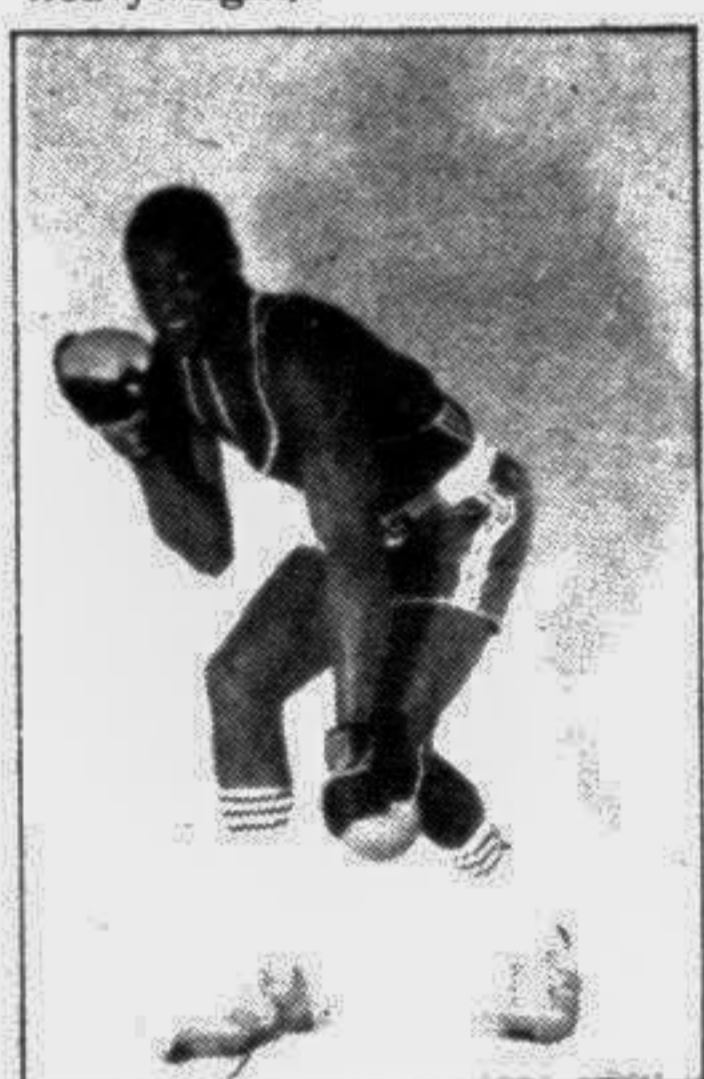
Cuba had a so-so day on Friday in boxing's first gold medal day, winning three of their five gold medal matches. Two of the losses came against a surprising Russian team, which won the day's other three golds.

"The Russian team is strong, they have always been strong. They were no surprise to me," said Cuban coach Alcides Sagarra. "Maybe they have been a little weaker in the last few years than usual, but I see they're developing again."

The Americans have four boxers in Saturday's six gold-medal matches to end Goodwill boxing. The best chance at gold probably lies with 17-year-old Carlos Navarro at 51 kilos (112 pounds) against Cuba Waldmar Font.

The other finalists include Shane Swartz vs Cuban Ariel

Hernandez at 75 kilos (165 pounds); Benjamin McDowell vs Dihosvany Vega of Cuba at 81 kilos (178 pounds); and Lance Whitaker vs Alexi Lezin of Russia at 91 kilos (super heavyweight).



FELIX SAVON

Ironically, the young American team's most experienced boxer Larry Nicholson, 27, lost in the semifinals at 60 kilos (132 pounds).

"This is a very young team we brought and it's been a good tournament for us," said team spokesman Kurt Stenerson. "The Cubans and Russians box many more international events than we do. Were going to start increasing with the

Olympics coming."

The Cubans are a mix of mostly experienced fighters from the team that won seven gold medals in the 1992 Olympics — with a few youngsters tossed in. The United States won only one boxing gold in Barcelona.

"Will we win seven gold medals again in the next Olympics?" Sagarra said, repeating a reporter's question. "We will if they let us."

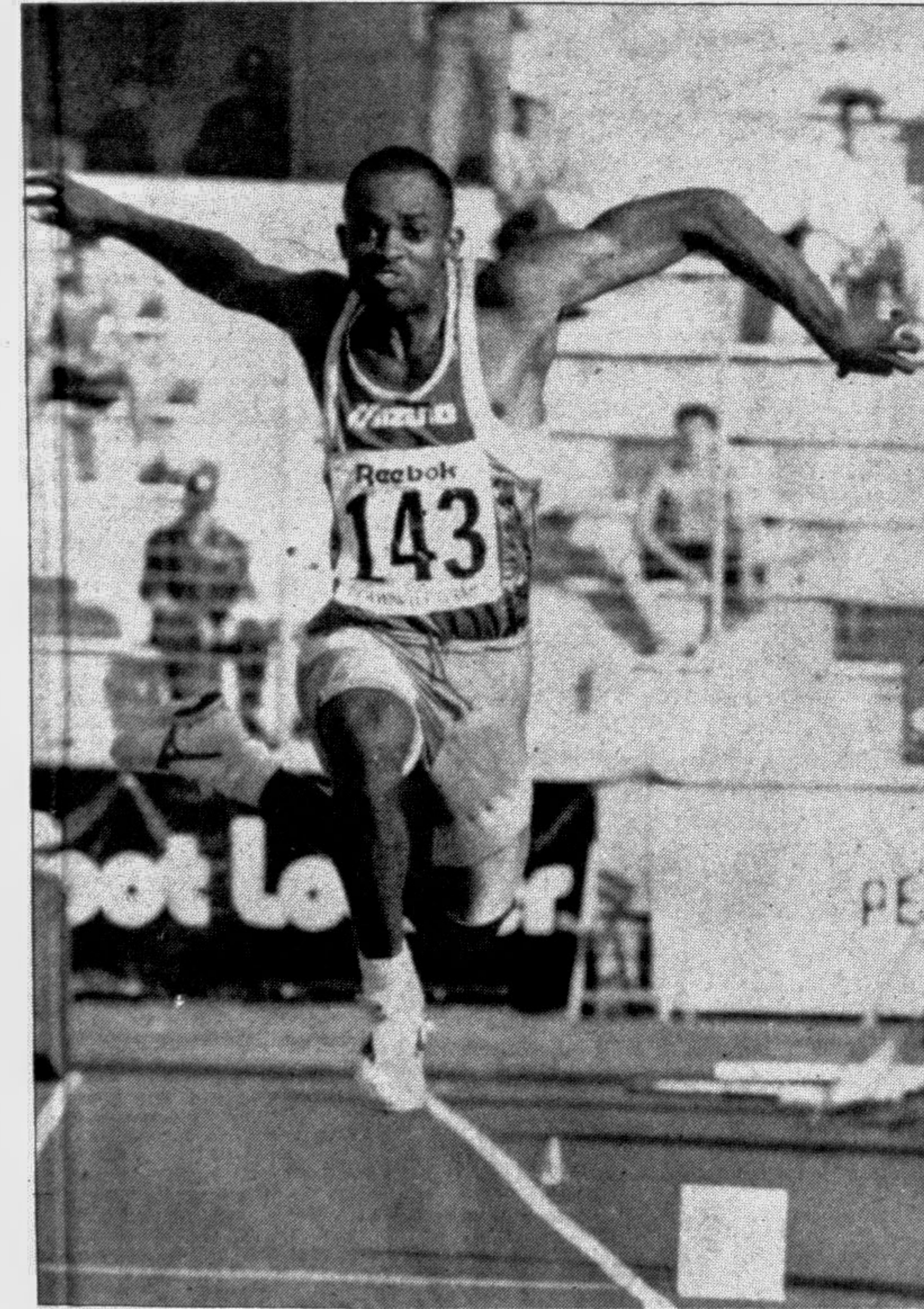
In addition to Savon, Cuba also won gold at 48 kilos (106 pounds) when Manuel Mantilla defeated Choi Joon-Wook of South Korea 30-3, and at 67 kilos (147 pounds) where Juan Hernandez defeated Russian Alexander Shkalkov 16-6.

For Russia, Vladislav Antonov defeated Cuban Enrique Carrion 6-2, at 54 kilos (119 pounds), and Sergei Karavakev defeated Cuba's Juan Carlos Lemus 15-7 at 71 kilos (156 pounds).

Russia's other gold were at 60 kilos (132 pounds) where Paata Gvasiliya defeated Germany's Heik Hin 12-3.

Russian coach Nicolai Khromov said there were no secrets to his boxers' strong showing against the Cubans.

"It's important when you box against the Cubans that you be in top physical form," he said. "They are always very fit. But the Cubans are human beings, they can fall to the canvas like anybody else."



American Kenny Harrison readies to take off during the men's triple jump at the Goodwill Games in St Petersburg on July 29. —AFP photo

IAAF'S BEST OF '94

LONDON, July 30 (Reuters): Leading 1994 world best performances issued by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) on Friday:

MEN

100 metres: 9.85 — Leroy Burrell (US world record); 9.94 — Davidson Ezinwa (Nigeria); 9.94 — Dennis Mitchell (US).

200 metres: 20.10 — Daniel Effoing (Nigeria); 20.10 — Frank Fredericks (Namibia); 20.10 — Michael Johnson (US).

400 metres: 44.32 — Samson Kitor (Kenya); 44.43 — Antonio Pettigrew (US); 44.62 — Derek Mills (US).

800 metres: 1:43.29 — Wilson Kipketer (Kenya); 1:43.50 — Vebjoern Rodal (Norway); 1:43.73 — Johnny Gray (US).

1,500 metres: 3:30.61 — Noureddine Morcelli (Algeria); 3:30.66 — Venuste Niyongabo (Burundi); 3:32.71 — Hazzedine Sediki (Morocco).

5,000 metres: 12:56.96 — Haile Gebresilasie (Ethiopia); 13:00.54 — Khalid Skah (Morocco); 13:02.93 — Bob Kennedy (US).

10,000 metres: 26:52.23 — William Sigei (Kenya); 27:15.00 — Haile Gebresilasie (Ethiopia); 27:17.20 — William Kiptum (Kenya).

Marathon: 2:07.15 — Cosmas Ndeti (Kenya); 2:07.19 — Andres Espinosa (Mexico); 2:07.51 — Vincent Rouseau (Belgium).

3,000 metres steeplechase: 8:09.16 — Moses Kiptanui (Kenya); 8:11.52 — William Mutwol (Kenya); 8:11.83 — Eluid Barngetuny (Kenya).

110 metres hurdles: 13.15 — Mark McKoy (Canada); 13.20 — Colin Jackson (Britain); 13.23 — Eugene Swift (US).

400 metres hurdles: 47.70 — Derrick Adkins (US); 47.99 — Samuel Matele (Zambia); 48.06 — Winthorp Graham (Jamaica).

High jump: 2.42 — Javier Sotomayor (Cuba); 2.35 — Steinar Hoen (Norway); 2.34 — Dalton Grant (Britain).

Pole vault: 6.00 — Sergei Bubka (Ukraine); 5.97 — Scott Huffman (US); 5.94 — Jean Galfione (France).

Long jump: 8.74 — Erick Walder (US); 8.63 — Kareem Streete-Thompson (US); 8.51 — Mike Powell (US).

Triple jump: 17.51 — Mike Conley (US); 17.43 — Vasily Sokov (Russia); 17.42 — Yoelvis Quesada (Cuba).

Shot put: 21.09 — Jim Doerhring (US); 21.07 — Kevin Toth (US); 20.94 — Yevgeny Palchikov (Russia).

Discus: 68.58 — Attila Horvath (Hungary); 66.08 — Juergen Schult (Germany); 66.08 — Lars Riedel (Germany).

Hammer: 83.36 — Andrei Abduvaliyev (Tajikistan); 83.14 — Igor Astapkovich (Belarus); 82.50 — Lance Bdal (US).

Javelin: 91.68 — Jan Zelazny (Czech Republic); 90.06 — Raymond Hecht (Germany); 87.34 — Andrei Moruyev (Russia).

Decathlon: 8,735 — Eduard Hamalainen (Belarus); 8,707 — Dan O'Brien (US); 8,548 — Steve Fritz (US).

20 km walk: 1:17.25 — Bernardo Seguras (Mexico); 1:18.04 — Bo Lingtang (China).

50-km walk: 3:38.43 — Valentin Massana (Spain); 3:41.28 — Jesus Garcia (Spain); 3:41.28 — Rene Piller (France).

4x100 metres relay: 37.79 — Santa Monica Track Club (US).

GOODWILL GAMES NOTEBOOK

ST. PETERSBURG, July 30 (AP): Traffic police are working overtime to make sure St. Petersburg's streets are safe during the Goodwill Games.

"Our employees work 12-hour shifts every day during the Goodwill Games, with only one day off a week," police Maj. Sergei Fyodorov said. "The guys are really tired."

About 450 posts have been set up around the city, and many areas have been closed off, creating huge traffic jams. Every car entering the city after midnight is searched and its number plate recorded.

At any time of day, it is practically impossible to enter or leave the city without being checked. At some checkpoints, the police are backed up by riot troops, crime investigators and dog handlers. Russia's top 66 dogs, trained to sniff explosives and drugs, have arrived in St. Petersburg.

The extra security, including officers every 100 metres on main thoroughfares, is irritating some motorists.

"How long are they going to torture people? While I drove along Suvorov Avenue, I was stopped and checked four times," shouted Mikhail, a young owner of a red Lada.

Lt. Andrei Krainev, 30, said the work is made tougher by the heat, and he wasn't happy about his salary. He is paid 200,000 rubles a month — about dhs 100 — and doesn't know whether to expect a bonus for extra work during the Games.

Krainev said there has been little trouble so far with any of the cars he has stopped. But St. Petersburg's crime wave hasn't disappeared.

"Despite the Games, more and more cars get stolen," he said.

SHIPS AHOY: St. Petersburg is being invaded — by the Russian Navy. Two-thousand sailors, two submarines, two mine sweepers, two patrol boats, a destroyer, a beach-landing ship and a training ship have arrived in the Nava River in the center of the city.

They're here for "Navy Day," which is celebrated every year on the last Sunday in July. There will be parades, fireworks and other festivities.

The ships came from the Leningradsky naval base, located about 20 miles (32 kms) outside the city. Before the Russian revolution, it served as the main base for Russia's fleet. It is now a small training base.

ROUGH SPORT: This taekwondo is tough stuff. Two competitors suffered broken bones at the Goodwill Games. Roman Korotkov of Russia fractured his right elbow, and Britain's David Fraser fractured his left hand.

BAR BILL: An American journalist at the Goodwill Games had an experience he won't forget when he left St. Petersburg on Saturday.

With an early-morning flight to catch, the journalist found no one at the reception desk when he went to check out of his hotel at 6 am. So, he gave his room key to a hotel doorman, who promised to hand it in.

Big mistake. As the journalist hopped in a cab for the airport, the doorman raced up to the room and cleaned out the mini-bar. To cover his tracks, he told local militia that the journalist had left without paying a dhs 81 mini-bar bill.

The militia drove out to the airport in hot pursuit, cornered the journalist in the check-in area and demanded that he pay up. The flabbergasted scribe argued that he'd only had one Coke. Finally, he shelled out dhs 3 for the cola.

The journalist flew home. There was no immediate word on the doorman.

TICKET UPDATE: Crowds continue to be scarce at most Goodwill Games events. Even for the showcase track and field competition which ended Friday, there were many empty seats at Petrovsky Stadium.

Goodwill Games president Jack Kelly said Saturday that 220,000 spectators had attended events in the first week of the 16-day competition. Many of those spectators got in free.

Kelly said tickets for the Aug. 7 closing ceremony were nearly sold out, and he projected that 75 per cent of tickets would be sold by the close of the Games.

"People are hung up on the spectator issue," deputy St. Petersburg Mayor Vitali Mutko said. "The Games are getting TV coverage so people are watching all over the world. That is an important fact."

MORE TRACK: Having staged its first major track and field competition ever, St. Petersburg wants to stage another major international meet.

Igor Kazantsev, the head track and field judge for the Goodwill Games, said Saturday that St. Petersburg would apply for a European Championship or a European Cup. He did not specify the years for either meet.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Power unit e.g.

5 Transcript abbr.

8 Abound

12 Lotion add-in

13 Film director Howard

14 Pakistan language

15 Peregrinator

17 Predetermines

18 Football's Luckman

19 Great amount

20 An elephant has four

21 Conrad's "Lord —"

22 24 horas

23 Make into a ball

26 They clash

30 53 Across pal

31 Actor Vigoda

32 Song from "Wonderful Town"

33 Methods

35 Waikiki windings

DOWN

3 Bridges of "Diff'rent Strokes"

4 1773 jetsam

5 Wedding VIP

6 Stick out the lip

7 Tiny socialist?

8 Merry-go-round, to Brits

9 Pennsylvania port

10 Advantage count

11 Disarray

16 Radar-screen signal

20 Kipling hero

21 Nearly

22 24 horas

23 Make into a ball

26 They clash

30 53 Across pal

31 Actor Vigoda

32 Song from "Wonderful Town"

33 Methods

35 Waikiki windings

22 Go blonde

23 "How Green — My Valley"

24 Fisher or Carter

25 Uno + uno

26 TV's "eye"

27 "Caught ya!"

28 Brooklyn sch.

29 "— your old man!"

31 Make louder, for short

34 Philanthropist Lilly

35 Zhigovo's love

37 Billow

38 Flop on Broadway

39 Sheltered

40 Neighbor of S.Dak.

41 Phyllis Diller's "husband"

42 Crazy flier

43 Political alliance

44 Command to Fido

46 Soon-Yi's mom

47 Corset-shop buy

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 11-30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
18			19					20		
			21					22		
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30				31				32		
33				34				35		
				36				37		
38	39	40						42	43	44
45				46				47		
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

CRYPTOQUIP

C R S Z S Z T C T V R P Q
 K T F K M P F I E M F B Z R P Q
 K B F S S T E T V K Z M C T E K
 F E T I E T V R B S T V

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CORN FARMER STUDIED THE CLARINET SINCE HE HAS AN EAR FOR MUSIC.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: C equals W

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, 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.