

## Sport

## Morceli does what he says



MONTE CARLO, Aug 3: Algerian Nouredine Morceli shattered the world 3,000 metres record with almost contemptuous ease when he clocked seven minutes 25.11 seconds on a perfect night for athletics by the Mediterranean on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Morceli, 24, who already holds the world record for the 1,800 metres and mile and has made no secret of one day wanting to own every middle distance mark in the book, took another step towards that ambition when he wiped out Kenyan Moses Kiptanui's record of 7:28.96 set two years ago this month in Cologne.

Morceli came home nearly four seconds inside Kiptanui's time and erased the memory of a year ago when he missed the same record on this track by just half a stride — 0.28 seconds.

But the men's 5,000 metres world record stayed intact, Kenyan Simon Chemolywo winning but well outside the 12:56.96 mark of Ethiopia's Haile Gebrselassie set in June this year. Morceli was the star of the night with the world record attempt going almost precisely to plan.

Pacemaker Joseph Chesire of Kenya took the Algerian through the first 1,000 metres bang on schedule in 2:28. Then Choumassi of Morocco guided him through 2,000 metres less than a second over their target time of five minutes in 5:00.97.

Morceli, who added the Goodwill Games crown to his growing list of honours last week, scorched round the final lap on his own and came home in an almost effortless sprint.

"It was a perfect night. There was a very slight breeze. It was all just set for record," he said after setting the sixth official world record of 1994.

"Obviously it went better than last year because I was in great shape and the pacing was exactly right."

Ethiopian Gebrselassie was a distant second in 7:37.49 but had reason to be delighted half an hour later.

His 5,000 metres world record was barely threatened

as a somewhat lacklustre attempt from Kenyan William Sigel fizzled out.

Sigel, who smashed the 10,000 metres world record last month, could only finish second behind compatriot Chemolywo in 13:11.46. The winner's time was 13:07.57.

Sigel looked tired at the end of the 12 lap race but could place no blame on the pacing of Ireland's Paul Donovan and Kenyan Paul Bitok who took him through the first 3,000 metres exactly on schedule in 7:49.

Sigel never seemed likely to respond to their efforts and Chemolywo led the field home at the head of a pack of six Kenyans.

## BUBKA BEATEN

After his latest pole vault world record of 6.14 metres at Sestriere on Sunday, there was the rare sight on Tuesday of a Sergel Bubka defeat.

The Ukrainian failed at three of his four attempts at different heights, finishing joint third in the pole vault on 5.70 metres. American Kory

Monte Carlo does what he says

ST PETERSBURG, Aug 3: Russia's male gymnasts won the Goodwill Games team event with almost embarrassing ease on Tuesday, cruising to victory over Belarus in an anti-climatic competition which was effectively over shortly after it began, reports Reuter.

The Russian four-man squad, featuring three athletes who finished in the top 12 of this year's World Championships, overwhelmed the remainder of the competition and won five of the six events with a final total of 171.200.

The Belarus side, minus world champion Ivan Ivankov and world number three Vitaly Scherbo, steadily improved to finish second with 167.875, ahead of the United States who scored 165.525.

Top individual scorer was Ukraine's Georgi Misyutin, competing as an independent, who scored 57.100, just ahead of Russia's Yevgeny Shabayev with 56.925.

Although there was no official comment, it was widely believed the pair quit after organisers refused their demands for increased appearance fees.

With the European Championships starting on Sunday, the meet was a final testing ground for the continent's top athletes.

But Germany's Heike Drechsler had an easier workload than expected when her main rival Jackie Joyner-Kersee of the United States failed to compete.

Drechsler, beaten by Joyner-Kersee in Sestriere on Sunday, was denied the chance of a quick revenge meeting, winning the long jump easily with a leap of 7.15 metres.

Joyner-Kersee, and American 400 metres Olympic champion Quincy Watts, who are both coached by Joyner-Kersee's husband Bobby, pulled out of the meeting although neither athlete appeared to be suffering from any injury when they arrived in Monte Carlo on Monday.

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Competition finally began 90 minutes late although water was lying on the surface on the sides of the rink.

"Welcome to my nightmare," groaned one television executive.

American athlete Andrew Gabel said "The ice is very soft and there are lots of people out walking on the ice. But it's hard in the summer to keep it ice hard."

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Taylor gets his chance

PHILADELPHIA, Aug 3: Meldrick Taylor finally gets a chance to avenge the most disappointing loss of his career next month when he fights Julio Cesar Chavez for the World Boxing Council super-lightweight title, reports AP.

The rematch between two of the top fighters in the weight class comes Sept. 17, about 4 1/2 years after Taylor was knocked out by Chavez with two seconds remaining in the final rounds.

"This is something that I've been thinking about for the last four years," Taylor said Tuesday. "I eat, sleep, walk it — everything. I've been waiting for this a long, long time."

Taylor was ahead on two of the three judges' scorecards when referee Richard Steele called the fight in the 12th round March 17, 1990. The 1984 gold medalist rose to his feet before the count reached eight but was not allowed to continue.

A rematch fell through shortly after their first fight, and Taylor moved up a weight class before returning to the super-lightweight division.

When Chavez defended his title 12 times before losing in January.

The fight will be held at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. Promoter Don King made the announcement at a news conference in Philadelphia Taylor's hometown.

Chavez, 34, of Culiacan, Mexico, has been considered a top boxer for much of his 13-year career. He has won five titles in three weight classes en route to a 90-1-1 record with 77 knockouts.

"I'm fortunate enough to go against the best because I always wanted top fight the best," Taylor said.

— AFP photo

Chang crashes out

LOS ANGELES, Aug 3: Mark Petchey of Britain upset an error-prone Michael Chang, the top seed, 7-5, 6-2 in the first round of the 313,750 dollars Los Angeles Open on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Only Gebrselassie and Aouita have ever run the distance in under 13 minutes. Morceli intends to join their exclusive club at the Weltklasse meeting in Zurich on August 17.

Third seeded American Andre Agassi, fresh from winning the Canadian Open last week, eliminated Nicklas Kulti of Sweden 6-2, 6-1 in another first-round match.

Jared Palmer upset fellow American Brad Gilbert, the seventh seed, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 6-4 in the only other surprise of the day.

Chang, the runner-up here last year, struggled with his serve and his normally reliable passing shots, while Petchey added to his discomfort by covering the net like blanket.

Petchey, ranked 89th in the world, captured the only service break of the first set in the 11th game after holding three previous break points against Chang, whose serve wavered between inconsistent and weak the entire match.

Chang, ranked sixth, won his serve only once in four second-set service games as Petchey repeatedly attacked the net and created problems for the American's passing shots.

Chang gave credit to his opponent for taking advantage of his own poor play in the 72-minute match.

"It's tough when you're not able to do what you want to do," Chang said. "Some of the shots I was hitting were missing by five feet. That's frustrating when you're playing a guy who's coming into the net and you only have the smallest margin for passing shots."

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27 Is?

29 Seine feeder

32 Geraldo, Sally, etc.

35 Christmas

36 Kingston group

37 Chance

38 Reuben

40 Jannings

42 Egg-yung link

44 Tops

46 Actress

48 Fructose-yielding compound

50 Free of fetters

52 Nazimova

54 Soprano

56 Spain + Portugal

58 Weight allowances

21 DDE's opponent

23 Bill's partner

24 Pen

25 Seine stuff

26 Versatile

28 Bikini, e.g.

30 Depot: abbr.

31 Psychic's skill

33 Crucial

34 — polio

36 The 400

39 Subsequently

42 Solid as a rock

43 Highly rated

45 1939 song, "Old Dutch Garden"

47 Trevi tosses

48 Pacific garlands

49 Oklahoma city

51 Kid in a kit

53 Cagers' org.

1 Rent

3 Big barrels

5 Incentive

7 Vietnam city

8 Clumsy craft

10 Skunk's defense

12 Catcall?

14 It gets the lead out

15 Loosen

16 "Wunnerful" band-leader

17 Ethnic hairstyle

19 AMA people

20 Take to the lake

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