



French skater Surya Bonaly performs during the women's technical programme of the Goodwill Games figure skating competition on August 4. — AFP photo

## Familiar faces crowd Helsinki

HELSINKI, Aug 5: Helsinki's fanatical athletics fans, who were present at the births of stars Carl Lewis, Sergei Bubka and Heike Drechsler on the world stage a decade ago, are unlikely to witness the arrival of too many fresh-faced winners at the European Championships, reports Reuter.

The veteran stars of track and field, led by Britain's Olympic sprint champion Linford Christie and the ever-green Drechsler, look determined to keep any up-and-coming youngsters away from their titles at the even starting on Sunday.

Eight-times Olympics champion Lewis, Ukraine's pole vault world record-holder Bubka and Germany's Olympic long jump champion Drechsler burst onto the scene in their teens and early 20s at the inaugural World Championships in the Finnish capital in 1983.

Although next week's European Championships will have a completely different look after the major political changes across the continent since the last event four years ago, the top of the podium could have a strong sense of "deja vu".

Although 34, Christie looks a safe bet to defend his 100 metres title despite a hamstring injury which has kept him out of competition since the middle of July.

In terms of taking on world,

100 metres record holder Leroy Burrell and his mighty American sprint teammates at next year's World Championships and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, Europe might benefit from the emergence of a new sprinter with Christie close to the end of his career.

But Christie seemed as keen as a raw teenager as he trained for the championships in Monaco in the week before the championships.

"I'd fine," he said as watched his teammates perform at Tuesday's Grand Prix meeting in Monte Carlo. "I'll see you in Helsinki."

The 1990 European Championships in split in the former Yugoslavia seem decades away as the continent's leading stars prepare to battle again.

Then, the former East Germany topped the medals table with 12 golds and the championships were remembered for the performances of a 20-year-old blonde, svelte sprinter from their ranks called Katrin Krabbe.

Now, after the dismantling of the former Soviet Union, East Germany and Yugoslavia, none of the expanded numbers of 44 countries represented in Helsinki can expect to enjoy the same dominance as the old communist East Germany.

Former golden girl Krabbe, who went on to repeat the 100 and 200 metres double at the 1991 World Championships, has fallen from grace after being caught cheating with drugs.

Krabbe, who has been earning her living teaching overweight housewives to keep fit, faces a huge task to make a comeback when her doping ban ends in August 1995.

Her sprint titles are unlikely to go to another unknown youngster, however.

Russian mother Irina Privolova, the 25-year-old Olympic 100 metres bronze medalist and European record holder, has a superb chance of repeating Krabbe's feat of winning the 100 and 200 metres as well as adding gold in the 4x100 metres relay.

Compared to the 34 medals won by the GDR alone four years ago, the United German team come to Finland estimating they can only win between 10 and 15. The Germans are also relying on the old names to pick up titles.

The 29-year-old Drechsler, who was the youngest gold medalist at the 1983 world event when she was just 18, heads their challenge. Olympic high jump champion Heike Henkel, 30, is also back defending her title after giving birth to her first child earlier this year.

Britain, who were second in the medals table ahead of the former Soviet Union last time, are likely to be among the top nations again with world high hurdles champions Colin Jackson, 400 metres star Roger Black and European 200 metres champion John Regis all in an excellent position to defend their titles.

## Russians raring for success

ST PETERSBURG, Aug 5 (Reuters): Russia's gymnasts have a brief message for their opponents at the World Team Championships in Dortmund this year: "Stay home."

"No one else has a chance apart from Russia and Belarus. The others might as well stay home," said Alexei Voropayev, second in this year's all-round World Championships, a cocky smile spreading across his face.

The self-confidence of the country's men and women gymnasts reflect Russia's success in maintaining high standards despite the collapse of the Soviet Union and the loss of several top athletes to other Commonwealth republics.

Both teams wiped the floor with their opposition against much weaker squads at the Goodwill Games and chief coach Leonid Arkayev is looking forward eagerly to Dortmund.

"I have great hope for the future and the championships. You saw how our top four men performed — we also have good reserves," he told reporters.

"They are very reliable — I think we'll succeed in putting together a team which can compete for medals."

Like every other senior coach, Arkayev has had to deal with cash shortages and the gradual collapse of the sporting infrastructure since the Soviet Union fell apart.

The Soviet side, traditionally the strongest in the world, won nine gold medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics under the banner of the short-lived unified team.

Arkayev then had to stand by as Vitaly Scherbo, winner of six Barcelona golds, went off to compete for his native Belarus.

Grigory Misutin, who won four silvers at Barcelona, now competes for Ukraine. So does Liliya Podkopaevam sixth in this year's World Championships, whose loss Arkayev deeply regrets.

But the coach, who has been in the job for 24 years, knows he cannot afford to dwell on the past.

"I don't despair now and hope I won't despair in the future," he said. "Today we're somehow keeping our heads above water and hoping for better times."

The gymnasts are surviving on money from the Russian Olympic Committee and sponsors-Reebok, but Arkayev was at pains to stress the sport had not been a wash with money under the communist regime.

"We always had money problems. And when they gave

us money before we were under their control, which made it even worse. At least I'm free now," he explained.

The Russian coaches have managed to maintain the national training base at Krugloe Ozero, a resort just north of Moscow, in virtually pristine condition, where 20 to 30 gymnasts are training at any one time.

The biggest worry is the state of the special children's training schools which turned out many stars in Soviet times.

"A lot of them are short of money and are not doing very well," Arkayev said. "But we are trying to look forward and are gathering 12-year-old girls to prepare for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney."

Arkayev has especially high hopes for Alexei Nemov from the central Russian town of Togliatti, who has gathered four gold medals at the Goodwill Games.

"He has very good potential. If he does all he is capable of doing he can beat Scherbo. I expect a lot from him. He is a real candidate for victory."

Even when his athletes lose, Arkayev can sometimes claim some of the credit, as he did when Ivan Ivankov of Belarus beat Voropayev for the 1994 world all-round title.

"I was proud when he won the World Championship because it shows my work is still bearing fruit," he said.

## Anand draws with Kamsky

HYDERABAD, India, Aug 5: Indian Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand and Gata Kamsky of the United States drew the crucial eighth game of their World Chess quarter-final match here on Friday night, reports AFP.

Both players agreed to a draw after the 33rd move and finished the eight-round match level at four points each, half a point short of the winning target of 4.5.

The match will be now decided through the tiebreaker, which consists of a two-game series where each player is given 45 minutes for the first 60 moves and then 30 minutes for every subsequent 15 moves.

The first of the two tie-breaker games will be played on Sunday.

Boris Gelfand of Belarus was poised to enter the semifinals when he adjourned the eighth game against Vladimir Kramnik of Russia in a comfortable position.

Gelfand is expected to press home the advantage when the game is resumed on Saturday.

In another quarter-final, Valery Salvo of Russia won the seventh game against Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman to lead 4-3 ahead of the final round.

The three winners will join world champion Anatoly Karpov in the semifinals of the official World Championships to be played here February 4-25 next year.

## Sanchez survives a scare

CARLSBAD, California, Aug 5: Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was overpowered 6-0 in her first set but rallied to join fellow Spaniard Conchita Martinez in the quarter-finals of the 400,000 dollars Toshiba tennis classic on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The second-seeded Sanchez Vicario, ranked second in the world, survived an upset bid by Marianne Werdel before bouncing the 15th seeded American, 6-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Martinez, ranked and seeded third and fresh off titles at Wimbledon and last week's US Hardcourt Championships at Stratton Mountain, Vermont, rolled past 11th seed Ginger Helgeson of the United States 6-4, 6-3.

"Mentally I didn't give up even though she was pushing me really well," said Sanchez Vicario. "I just kept going and finally in the third set I was more in control than her and that's why I won."

Sanchez Vicario, the two-time and current French Open champion, will next meet unseeded Christine Singer of Germany, who upset seventh-seeded Sabine Appelmans of Belgium 6-4, 6-0.

Three-time and defending San Diego title holder Steffi Graf faces sixth-seed Julie Halard in a quarter-final Friday.

Halard knocked off 10th-seeded Ukrainian Natalia Medvedeva 6-2, 6-3.

Sanchez Vicario was overwhelmed in the opening set as the hard-hitting Werdel produced winners from all over the court.

"I don't think she missed one shot," said Sanchez Vicario of Werdel's fast start. "I knew I was all over the court watching the ball coming back, going boom, boom, boom."

"When a player plays like this, you just have to hang in there and try your best and everything will change," she added.

Werdel couldn't keep up the torrid pace and the bouncy 22-year-old Spaniard began to find the mark with her array of baseline shots.

In the deciding set, Sanchez Vicario built a 5-3 lead and wasted a match point in the ninth game on Werdel's serve before closing out the match.

"Even though I didn't play too good in the beginning, I'm glad that I passed this match because I fight till the end," said Sanchez Vicario.

"A finished the way I'm supposed to play in the beginning. It took me a little bit longer but she played really well."

Martinez had an easier time, turning back Helgeson to run her career record to 6-0 over the 37th-ranked player. She will next face Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic. The fifth-seed brushed aside number nine Iva Majoli of Croatia 6-4, 6-3.

Helgeson thought the Spaniard's uncanny topspin passing strokes was the difference.

"She relied on her passing shots to be on and they were," said Helgeson.

In other matches, fourth-seed Lindsay Davenport powered past fellow American and 12th seed Ann Grossman 6-1, 6-2, and unseeded Tami Whitlinger-Jones of the United States was credited with a 6-2, 3-0 victory over Angelica Gavaldon when the unseeded Mexican retired with a lower back strain.

## World Basketball Championships Nearly a nightmare for USA

HAMILTON, Canada, Aug 5: Dream Team II got a rude awakening, here Thursday, having to battle through the first half before beating Spain 115-100 in their opening game at the World Basketball Championships, reports Reuter.

Joe Dumars scored 21 points and Reggie Miller added 20 to lead the National Basketball Association all-star squad.

Spain rallied from a 12-point deficit to take a 42-41 lead on a 3-point shot by Alberto Herreros with 5:25 to play in the first half.

The basket concluded a 20-7 run by the Spanish over a four-minute span. Herreros had eight of his 10 first-half points in the surge and the second Dream Team's worst nightmare appeared to be coming true.

But the NBA stars answered with an 11-5 run and pulled ahead 59-51 at half-time. Yet thoughts of matching the original Dream Team's 44-point victory margins from the 1992 Olympics were done after Spain's inspired effort.

Jose Cargol's 3-point shot pulled Spain within 59-54 just 13 seconds into the second half. But the US team followed with a 19-1 run over the next 5:40, taking a 78-55 lead and ending Spain's upset dreams.

Moller and Dumars put on a long-range shooting show early in the second half, with Dumars sinking three 3-pointers and Miller adding two more plus two free throws as part of 16 in a row by the US club.

The US team stretched its lead as large as 99-74 on Shawn Kemp's 3-point play with 6:29 to play. Spain pulled as close as the final margin.

Spain's Jordi Villacampa scored a game-high 28 points.

China upset Brazil 97-93 in overtime after battling back from a nine-point deficit with 2:48 left in regulation to win the final game of the first day.

Chinese forward Weidong Hu scored 27 points, including 14 of 17 shots from the free-throw line. Teammate Nai Qunwu helped force the five-minute overtime by contributing seven points with one minute and 14 seconds remaining. WU Sunk one 22-foot jumpshot and hit four free throws.

Brazil's veteran forward Paulo de Almeida scored 26 points while teammate Maury de Souza added 23.

Brazil won back-to-back world titles in 1959 and 1963 along with two silver and two bronze medals between 1954 and 1963.

But the Brazilians finished only fifth at the 1990 World Championship and are now without legendary Oscar Schmidt, who has retired. Along with the United States, Brazil is the only nation to have played in all 11 World Basketball Championships since 1950.

China finished 14th out of 16 team at 1990. China will meet the United States on Friday while Brazil will take on Spain.

In another match, Dino Radja scored 25 points and Croatia rallied from an early deficit to rout Cuba 85-65.

Arijan Komazec added 21 points while Stojan Vrankovic scored 14 points and made 12 rebounds and Tony Kukbc added 11 points and 12 rebounds for the winners in the Groups B first-round opener.

Cuba jumped ahead 7-2 in the first 72 seconds on a 4-point play by Jose Diaz and a 3-point shot by Angel Caballero.

But Radja scored eight points and Komazec added five in a 16-4 Croatia run that put the Europeans ahead 28-20 midway through the first half. They never trailed again.

Center Stojan Vrankovic and Kukoc ignited fast break chances for Croatia that baffled the Cubans, who trailed 45-27 at half-time and came no closer than 15 points in the second half. Croatia's largest lead came at 77-53 on a tip-in by Vrankovic with 5:09 to play.

Richard Matiendo led Cuba with 16 points.

A loud crowd of about 4,000 people supported Croatia, most waving flags and some beating drums. More than 90,000 people of Croatian descent live in this area.

**Thompson's switch**

LONDON, Aug 5: Former Olympic decathlete Daley Thompson of Britain will play in a soccer friendly match on Saturday, reports Xinhua.

The 36-year-old former Olympic champion is to play for English First-Division side Reading when the club meets Spain's Real Sociedad in the scheduled friendly.



Members of the Kansas City Chiefs football team watch a demonstration of sumo wrestling before their practice session for a pre-season match against Minnesota Vikings in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP photo

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Male turkeys

5 A stock answer?

8 Mine car

12 Wield a blue pencil

13 Blueprint extra

14 French river

15 Shade of green

16 Have a visual problem

18 Roosevelt

20 "JR" novelist

21 Young blokes

23 One of Larry's pals

24 Nightclubs

28 Suitable

31 Bat wood

32 Part of a Biblical payback

34 Wish otherwise

35 Stare stupidly

37 Sawbucks

**39 Intention**

**41 Grease-paint sound?**

**42 Ameche's Oscar movie**

**45 U.S. ship seized by Korea, 1968**

**49 "We Three"**

**51 Afternoon TV entry**

**52 Stench**

**53 Lamb dam**

**54 A great quantity**

**55 Scoundrels**

**56 — Alamos wine?**

**57 Fine DOWN**

**1 See to**

**2 Garfield's Oscar**

**3 Floss structure**

**4 Pillers**

**5 Having medium-sized teeth**

**6 Bullring bravo**

**7 Cassini of fashion**

**8 Head honcho**

**9 Region of Western Sahara**

**10 Spot of**

**11 Disarray**

**17 "Cheers" role**

**19 California valley**

**22 Take the helm**

**24 Crone**

**25 Explorer Johnson**

**26 Smote**

**27 News briefs**

**29 Unconscious**

**30 — Moines**

**33 Jacob's brother**

**36 News-stands**

**38 Magician's cry**

**40 Unruly head of hair**

**42 Mag. stat.**

**43 Draftable**

**44 Ure**

**46 Register**

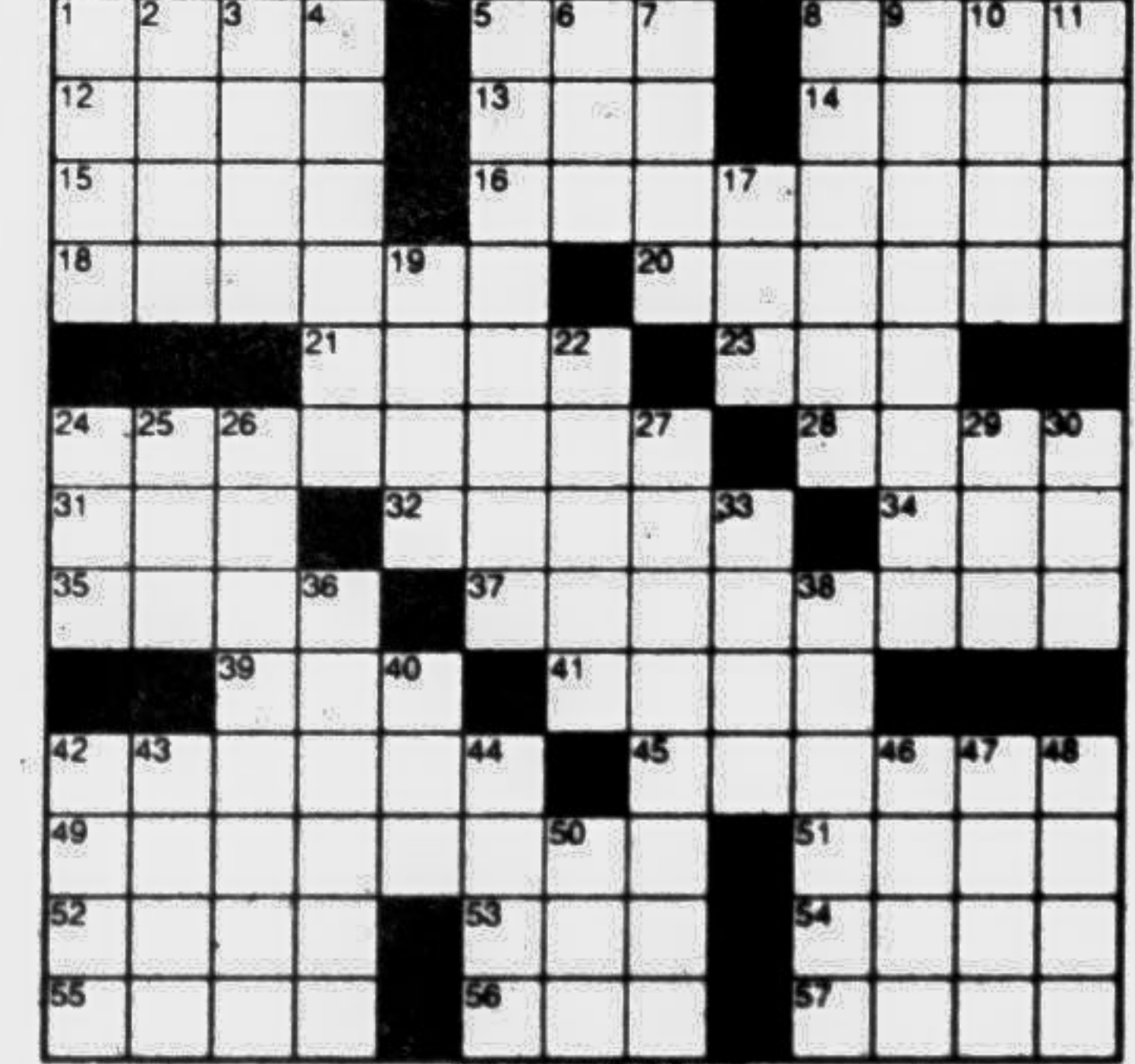
**47 Ms. Turner**

**48 Medical exam: suffix**

**50 Seesaw quorum**

**Solution time: 26 min.**

**TACOS SHADOW**  
**MORANT PARADE**  
**ERASER UNKNOT**  
**WELK AFRO DR**  
**SATILICY**  
**SEA EGOS OISE**  
**TALKSHOWHOSTS**  
**YULE YRIO HAP**  
**RYE EMIL**  
**FOO LIDS ALLA**  
**INULIN UNTIED**  
**RENATA IBERIA**  
**MADDEN TARES**



**CRYPTOQUIP**

F Y G R S R M W K B F E S M M P R K S  
K Z W P P T V G T D S K K M  
Z T I E M V W B T K K W K  
I T P V T E T V F P R Y F S R M P

Saturday's Cryptquip: SHE WRITES NONSENSE POEMS THAT ARE COMPLETELY WITHOUT RHYME OR REASON.

Today's Cryptquip clue: G equals B

The Cryptquip 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.

## Hooliganism down in UK

LONDON, Aug 5: The hooligan element among English club crowds is declining, according to figures published on Thursday, reports AFP.

Arrests at league games last season were down eight per cent at 4,227 while at Cup games they fell 25 per cent to 1,296 compared with season 1992-93.

However, police say there is still a problem with hardcore hooligan gangs who attach themselves to particular clubs.

Detective chief inspector Bryan Drew, head of the National Football Intelligence Unit, said: "There is still a hardcore of hooligan gangs who choose to cause trouble often at predetermined locations away from the grounds."

"It is these events which are less often reported and are therefore more difficult to identify."

Police say their work has been helped by a national hooligan hotline, where people can give tip-offs about trouble-makers in confidence.

The best improvements last season were in Divisions Two and Three, where arrests fell by 27 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

Arrests in the Premiership fell, one per cent to 1,630, while those in Division One rose one per cent to 1,359.

## Shearer sidelined

BLACKBURN, England, Aug 5: England striker Alan Shearer will miss the start of the new season after catching a virus from seafood he ate on holiday, reports AFP.

Shearer, who scored 34 goals for Blackburn Rovers last season despite being injured for several months, has been looking forward to partnering the Ewood Park Club's new five million pound signing Chris Sutton.

The 23-year-old will miss the Charity Shield curtain raiser against Manchester United at Wembley on August 14, and possibly the opening premiership games at former club Southampton and at home to Leicester.

Shearer said on Thursday: "I saw the doctor this morning and he told me that I will definitely not be able to play in the Charity Shield."

"He said I can start jogging next week and hopefully recommence full training in mid-August."

Shearer is confident he will be available for England's friendly match against the USA at Wembley on September 7.

## Rowsell stops Hiles

NEWCASTLE, Australia, Aug 5: Unbeaten Justin Rowsell retained his Australian lightweight boxing title Friday night with a third-round technical decision over challenger Darrell Hiles, reports AP.

Hiles was ruled unable to continue after an accidental head clash in the third round left him with a gaping cut over his right eye.

Rowsell was ahead on the cards of all three judges at the time of the stoppage and improved his record to 9-0. Hiles dipped to 12-8.

Both fighters scaled 61.05 kilograms (134 1/2 pounds).

Two other Australian title fights were contested on the same card.

Colin Nelson, a former holder of the national flyweight and bantamweight titles, won the vacant junior-bantamweight title with a 12-round split decision over Tanzanian-born Lucas Mathew.