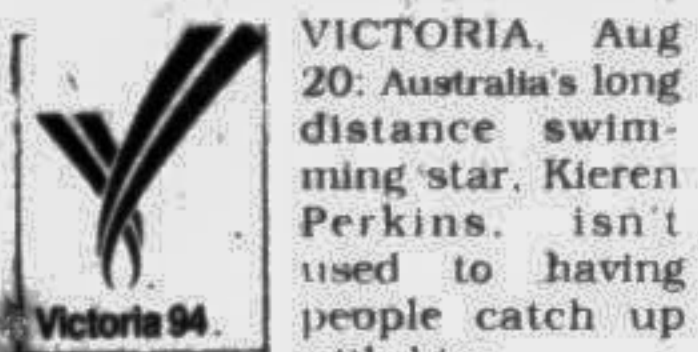


Perkins leads Aussie charge



VICTORIA, Aug 20: Australia's long distance swimming star, Kieren Perkins, isn't used to having people catch up with him.

When he saw two New Zealanders trying to stop him winning his first Commonwealth Games gold medal in the 200 metres freestyle, the 800 and 1,500 specialist did something new, reports AP.

He had to sprint. Perkins went out fast and had a clear halfway lead before New Zealanders Trent Bray and Danyon Loader made their late moves.

"I breathe on my right side, and, during the third 50, I could see Trent right by me," Perkins said. "That was something I knew wasn't good for me and, at the third turn, I saw Danyon approaching."

"I put my head down and went for it. I don't think I breathed much over the last 25," said Perkins, who also competes in the three longer events here, 400, 800 and 1,500. "When I touched, I had absolutely no idea where I had finished."

"I have been working hard on sprinting in the last couple of months and my strength in the water has improved," said Perkins, who also is Olympic champion at 1,500.

"I'm really not a 200 swimmer but I was feeling more confident about the way I would swim the 200 this time."

Perkins' 1 minute, 49.31 seconds beat the previous games mark of 1:49.58, set by Australia's Martin Roberts at Auckland four years ago.

Bray took second in 1:49.47 and Loader won the bronze in 1:49.53, both inside the previous games record.

The opening day of action certainly belonged to Australia, which hoped for even more success Saturday in swimming and shooting.

As well as winning four golds in the pool, the Australians triumphed in the men's and women's team cycling time trials. Christine Trefry and Annette Woodward won the pistol pairs and Kim Frazer and Sylvia Purdie were first in women's smallbore rifle prone pairs.

Australia's Phillip Adams



KIEREN PERKINS

and Bengt Sandstrom won the men's freestyle pistol pairs.

The Canadians triumphed in the men's team gymnastics and Jean-Francois Senecal and Wayne Sorensen won the men's air rifle pairs for the host nation.

Saturday saw the first diving medals and finals in wrestling as well as four swim finals, the men's 100 butterfly and 400 individual medley, and women's 200 freestyle and 200 breaststroke.

Perkins was one of four

Australians who won gold medals in the first five events in the pool. Make that five out of six if you include the first disabled Commonwealth Games swimming race, a 100 freestyle won by Melissa Carlton.

Phil Rogers edged England's Nick Gillingham to win the 100 metres breaststroke title in 1:02.62. Billingham, who put in a late spurt, was only 0.03 behind at the finish with Canada's Jon Cleveland, who won the 200-metre title in Auckland four years ago, third in 1:03.20.

In the women's 400-metre individual medley, one Australian replaced another as Commonwealth champion.

Elli Overton, born across the water in Vancouver but an Australian citizen, ousted Hayley Lewis as titlist with a powerful performance.

The Australians were expected to make a sweep of the medals in this event but Canada's Nancy Sweetnam, who won the 200 medley gold four years ago, split Overton and Lewis with another Australian, Julie Majer, fourth.

Overton clocked 4:44.01, Sweetnam had 4:46.20 and Lewis, who later collected gold in the 800-metre freestyle relay, took bronze in 4:46.62.

The only gold medal the Australians didn't win in the pool went to England's Karen Pickering in the women's 100 freestyle.

Pickering set a Games record in winning the women's 100-metre freestyle title in 56.20. Australia's Karen Van Wirdum, who set the previous record in Auckland four years ago, also beat her previous mark of 56.46 by clocking 56.42. Marianne Limpert of

Canada won the bronze in 56.54.

Van Wirdum had another reason to feel happy.

"I proposed to my boyfriend in a television interview immediately afterward," she said. "He had better say yes."

MEDALS TABLE

Commonwealth Games medals table after Friday's events:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Australia	9	2	1	12
Canada	2	3	3	8
England	1	4	3	8
New Zealand	0	2	2	4
Scotland	0	1	1	2

Mishap at Victoria

VICTORIA, Aug 20: A policeman was seriously injured when his motor cycle collided with a Commonwealth Games vehicle at a cycling venue on the opening day of the Games on Friday, reports Reuter.

Constable Ygolo Horvath was in a serious condition in Victoria General Hospital, said sergeant Peter Montague of the Royal Canadian mounted police.

"He has a broken shoulder, broken ribs and a punctured lung," Montague said. "He is in a serious condition but it's expected he will survive his injuries."

Horvath, 36, who is married with a three-year-old daughter, was helping clear the Pat Bay highway shortly before the start of the men's 100 km team time trial.

Graf, slow but steady

MONTREAL, Aug 20: Steffi Graf shrugged off a poor start and won the final 11 games to beat Gabriela Sabatini 7-5, 6-0 Friday in a quarterfinal match of the Canadian Open tournament, reports AP.

The top-seeded Graf, whose sore back caused her to stop play twice for treatment on Wednesday, started slowly against Sabatini, trailing 5-2 at one point with Sabatini serving at 30-love.

But Graf won the next five games to take the set, and in the second set she won all six games.

"I was a little bit nervous at the beginning of the match and Sabatini was playing very well," Graf said.

"But I thought I could get back into it if I just kept the ball in play and waited for the right moment to attack. Then, it finally came in the eighth game."

"I was attacking and doing exactly what I wanted. Then, she started to come back and I guess my mind just went off somewhere," Sabatini said.

No 2 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario defeated unseeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-2, 6-1 in another quarterfinal. She will play in the semifinals against Japan's Kimiko Date, who beat unseeded Nathalie Baudone of Italy 4-6, 6-2, 6-0.

"I've been playing in the early matches all week because maybe people think the other matches are more interesting," said Sanchez Vicario, who is in the second half of the draw and has had an easy time this week.

"But I don't mind if Sabatini, Graf and (Mary) Pierce fight it out at the top half of the draw. I'll just wait and play the winner."

Sampras fighting to be fit

COMMACK, N.Y., Aug 20: Pete Sampras, who will be top-seeded in men's singles when the US Open begins later this month, still hasn't fully recovered from tendonitis in his left ankle, reports AP.

The world's top-ranked player was a last-minute entry Friday in the Hamlet Cup tennis tournament, where he will compete only in doubles.

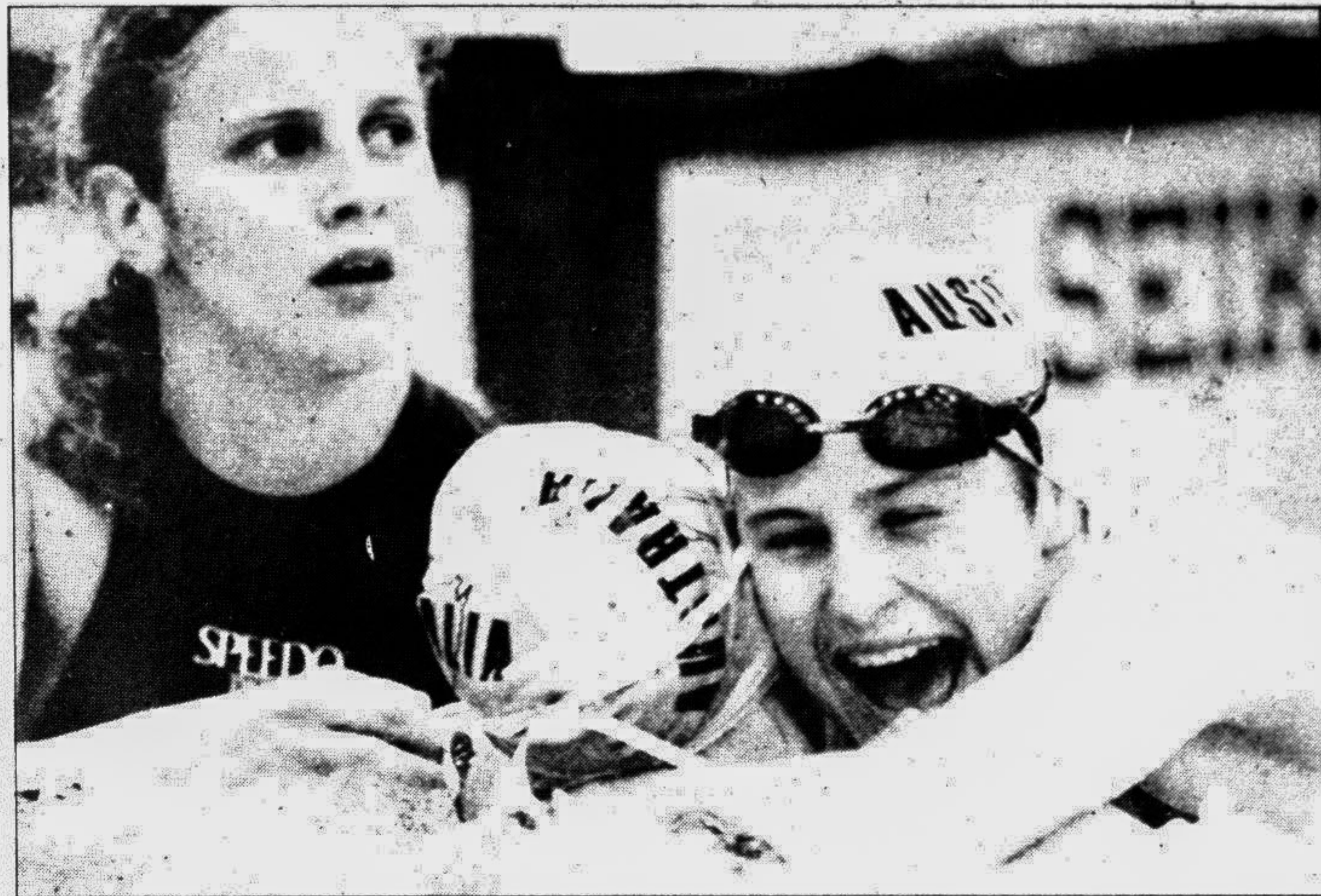
"The fact is I haven't practised in a few weeks," said Sampras, who will be playing in his first tournament since Wimbledon in July, which he won for the second straight year. "In the doubles I'll be able to start moving more, covering half a court. I feel I need to start moving."

Sampras, who will team with Richey Reneberg in the \$13,750 dollar warmup event for the year's final Grand Slam tournament, said his ankle is getting better, but "it's not 100 per cent yet."

"It's not the preparation for the Open that I want, but it's the last Grand Slam of the year and I'll do the best I can," Sampras said. "I never thought of not playing."

Sampras said he began feeling discomfort in his ankle during Wimbledon, and the pain worsened in the United States' 3-2 Davis Cup victory over the Netherlands right after Wimbledon.

"It's been a frustrating last few weeks," said Sampras, who was forced to pull out of tournaments in Washington, DC, Cincinnati and Indianapolis.



Australian Melissa Carlton (R) is congratulated by Kelly Barnes (C) after winning the women's disabled 100 metres freestyle gold at the 15th Commonwealth Games in Victoria on August 20. England's Viki Sims (L), who came in fourth checks her time. — AFP photo

Hinton to do it a la Lewis

VICTORIA: It's no coincidence that the fighting styles of Canadian super heavyweight Shane Hinton and World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis are similar, reports AP.

"Lewis is my idol," said the inexperienced Hinton, Canada's biggest boxing representative at the Commonwealth Games. "He's the best boxer Canada's ever had."

Before turning pro and winning the WBC title, Lewis was an Olympic gold medalist, knocking out eventual world champion Riddick Bowe with a powerful right hand in the first round at the 1988 Barcelona Olympics.

"He fights like me," Hinton said of Lewis. "He's a stand-up fighter, a counterpuncher and a hard hitter."

"I've copied my style from him."

Like Lewis, the 1.90 metres, 462-kilos (6-foot-3, 210-pound) Hinton has his sights set on winning an Olympic championship, at Atlanta in 1996.

"My dream is to go to the Olympics," Hinton said. "This (the Commonwealth Games) is not the end of the road for him," Canadian coach Yvon Michel said. This is the beginning. I see him going to the '96 Games and being a contender."

By then, the 21-year-old Hinton should be a more polished fighter. He decided to become a boxer only less than two years ago and didn't have his first fight until December 1992 — three months after walking into the Hortie Gym Amateur Boxing Club in Edmonton, Alberta, and being told by Brad Hortie that he had a lot of natural talent.

Since then, Hinton has had 17 fights, winning 15 — 11 by knockouts — and losing two.

"I've had the least number of fights of anyone on the (Canadian) team and maybe of anyone in the entire tournament," he said.

One of his two losses was to England's Danny Williams, his opponent in Tuesday's preliminary round. The winner will

No sex test at C'wealth Games

VICTORIA, Aug 20: The 15th Commonwealth Games are the first major international multi-sport event to drop gender testing for women, and now women's groups are pushing for the Olympics to do the same, reports APF.

"The test is harassment of females," said Marg McGregor, executive director of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport.

The group has pushed for an end to sex testing for 10 years, not only because it can be degrading but more importantly because the medical procedure is unreliable.

"Even if a woman was on male hormones, they would still pass the test because it doesn't detect steroids," said Dr Bob McCormack, chief medical officer for Canada's Commonwealth Games team.

The test can also miss up to 90 percent of women who have a strength advantage through chromosomal disorders.

The test involves analysing a cell sample from the inside of the cheek and a hair. Analysts check for female X chromosomes and male Y chromosomes.

"It's quick and painless, but it's just the fact that you have to go through the whole procedure just to prove that you're female, whereas the men on the team don't have to do something like that," said Canadian swimmer Nikki Dryden, who was glad to see the test go.

Men have competed as women in international competition. German Dora Ratjen, who was fourth in the women's high jump at the 1936 Olympics, was discovered to be a man 20 years later.

advance to Thursday's semifinals and an automatic medal.

Hinton, however, doesn't want to settle for a bronze, like he got after being stopped by Williams in the second round in a multi-nation tournament at Manchester, England.

"Whoever wins between me and Williams will win the tournament," Hinton said.

Hinton, a supermarket employee when he's not fighting, said he learned a lot from the first Williams fight and the result will be different this time.

"Last time, I had him hurt and wobbling in the first round," he said. "But I didn't finish him. That was my inexperience showing."

"He caught me with a good punch. It stunned me, but it didn't hurt much. However, the referee thought it did and stopped it right away, with no eight count. I was leading on points at the time."

"Now, I've learned to keep my hands higher. I've watched tapes of the fight and I know what to do — to be more defensive. After the Williams fight, I said, 'I want to get him back.' I've worked out hard three times a day. I'm in the best shape of my life."

"This is my turn, my country, I want the gold."

Since the Williams bout, Hinton has fought twice and knocked out both opponents.

"Shane's getting better and better," Michel said. "He's young, but doesn't have much experience. But he's strong, durable, he likes fighting, he likes to crowd an opponent and he has good speed."

"When he has more experience, he will mix his offense and his defense. Right now, he tends to rely on his offence."

"Canada has a tradition of bringing very good heavyweights into the international level. Shane still has a long way to go to reach that level. But he has the tools, he has the potential."

"Now, we'll have to see if he has the will."

Pak natants for Asiad named

ISLAMABAD, Aug 20: The Pakistan Amateur Swimming Federation (PASF) today announced a four-member team for participation in the Asian Games to be held in Hiroshima in October, reports Xinhua.

Latif Butt, secretary of Pakistan Olympic Association (POA), who is also secretary of the Swimming Federation, released the names of the swimmers after watching the trials of the probables who attended the camp.

In addition to Muhammad Maroof from the Army and Kamal Masood from Sindh province, who are in Canada for the Commonwealth Games, Bilal Bux from Punjab province and Akhtar Zeb from the Army are the other two swimmers who have been picked up for the Asiad.

Muhammad Abbas from the Army has been selected as a stand-by. Besides 4X100-metre freestyle they will participate in 100 metres and 200 metres freestyle events.

Sanfrece's 4th

TOKYO, Aug 20: First-stage champions Sanfrece Hiroshima Saturday extended their winning streak to four, beating Urawa Red Diamonds 2-0 in the Japanese Professional Soccer League, reports AP.

Czech striker Ivan Hasek made Sanfrece's first goal with a header in the 32nd minute of the first half and Noh Jung-youn of South Korea added another 38 minutes into the second half before 9,367 fans at Omiya, northwest of Tokyo. The Diamonds are 2-2.

Brazilian striker Betinho made the game's only goal — a cross shot — 15 minutes into the first half, giving Verdy Kawasaki a 1-0 triumph over a game that was interrupted.

Shibata passes away

TOKYO, Aug 20: Japan Olympic Committee (JOC) honorary chairman Katsuji Shibata died of pulmonary emphysema at a Tokyo hospital Saturday, doctors said. He was 83, reports APF.

Aussie shooters reap rich

VICTORIA, Aug 20: Pistol ace Phillip Adams added another gold medal to his impressive collection Friday as Australian shooters struck it rich on the opening day of the Commonwealth Games, reports APF.

Adams surprised no one but his wife in winning his seventh Commonwealth Games gold when he and his partner Bengt Sandstrom bagged the free pistol team title.

Australia also won the first two gold medals awarded to women in Commonwealth shooting to end a highly satisfying day at Hea's Range.

Shooting also produced the first gold medal of the Games for host Canada when veteran Jean-Francois Senecal combined with rookie Wayne Sorensen for the air rifle men's team title with a record-breaking effort.

Adams, a 49-year-old sheep farmer, scored 554 out of a possible 600 — the day's best — for an Australian total of 1,104 points on the 50-metre range.

He and the 38-year-old Sandstrom finished 10 points clear of the silver medalists, New Zealand's Julian Lawton and Gregory Yelavich. England's Michael Gault and Paul Leatherdale won the bronze with 1,082.

The charismatic Adams is taking part in his fourth Commonwealth Games in a 20-year career and has won 15 medals of varying hues.

His wife Ina claimed to be surprised.

"I felt he was growing old and decrepit and the time had come for him to retire," said Ina, who got bored watching her husband shoot and went off to see a movie when he won his first gold medal at Brisbane in 1982.

"I really didn't think he would win. He was the one who said just once more," she said.

Adams took time off from his farming business to train for these Games and disprove his wife.

HK shuttlers stretch Britons

VICTORIA, Aug 20: Hong Kong, 1990 bronze medalists, made defending champions England fight all the way in their opening match of the Commonwealth Games team badminton tournament on Friday, reports Reuter.

In their last appearance in the Games — they leave the Commonwealth when the colony reverts to Chinese control in three years' time — Hong Kong were determined to make an impact as both the leading English singles players found.

Anders Nielsen, beaten twice previously by Wai Lap Wong, looked set for another reverse for a time.

After the English player took the first game 15-6, his opponent came back strongly to take the next 15-10.

Nielsen succeeded in keeping his tricky opponent away from the net to win the decider 15-8.

Oi Ni Chan made nonsense of her world ranking of 50th in taking less than 30 minutes to beat England's Jo Mugggeridge, ranked 29, 11-5 11-4.

Although Nick Ponting and Chris Hunt won their men's doubles comfortably, the remaining two doubles matches were close and a relieved England team manager Ciro Ciniglio said after the 4-1 success: "Nielsen's win was the one we wanted and set us up for victory. If he had lost that things might have been very different."

The Australian pair of Kim Frazier and Sylvia Purdie won the women's team title in the standard bore rifle event with a total of 1,160 points out of a possible 1,200 and were presented the gold medals by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Purdie, a 38-year-old court reporter, dedicated the medal to her husband Bill, an electrician in Melbourne and their children.

"It has been a personal sacrifice for my family," she said. "I don't have a sponsor, and the training and travelling costs money."

Scotland's Shirley McLintosh and Pat Littlechild tied with the Canadian team of Christina Ashcroft and Linda Szulga on 1,158. The Scottish pair took the silver with a better score on the last 10 shots.

Christina Trefry and Annette Woodward won the sports pistol women's team title with a score of 1,134, just two points ahead of Canada's Helen Smith and Sharon Cozzarin.

England's Carol Page and Margaret Thomas bagged the bronze with a score of 1,129.

It is the first time that women's shooting events have been included in the Commonwealth Games.

Hosts Canada began the day on a bright note before the Australians got into the act.

Senecal, participating in his fourth Games, and first-Umer Sorensen shot a combined score of 1,166 points — a new Commonwealth Games record — for the air rifle team gold.

Senecal, 33, also scored 10 bullseyes for a perfect 100 in one round.

His partner conquered a bad back and a lapse in concentration midway through the match, humming a pop song in his mind to shake off the tension, and dedicated the medal to the physiotherapists at the Games Village.



GOLDEN QUARTET: (From L-R) Australia's men's cycling team of Phil Anderson, Brett Dennis, Demian McDonald and Hendricus Vogels pose on the winners podium after claiming the cycling time trials event at the Commonwealth Games on August 19. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Gala device
- Ill-lit
- Knocks 'em dead
- Congregational cry
- Raw rock
- Opposite of sans
- W, in the lab
- Latvian city
- Man with an alibi?
- Achilles, e.g.
- Laugh-provoking prop
- Duel tool
- Cl, in the lab
- AAA job
- Pseudo-customer
- Cornfield call
- Sb, in the lab
- Show up
- Ex-larva
- Lulu of a lapse
- West Point attendees

DOWN

- Corpuent
- Grounded Aussie
- X rating?
- Motor
- Be too
- 1 Corpulent
- 2 Grounded Aussie
- 3 X rating?
- 4 Motor
- 5 Be too
- 6 Dander
- 7 How geniuses do computations
- 8 Hollywood surname
- 9 "Metamorphoses" poet
- 10 "Here — round the..."
- 11 Read bar codes
- 16 "Guys and Dolls" role
- 20 Organic compound
- 21 Goat's-milk
- 22 Topping
- 23 Salamander
- 24 Hutch contents
- 26 Where stolen cars are dismantled
- 27 Object of worship
- 28 Tom, Dick, or Harry
- 29 Pitcher codes
- 31 Porographic material
- 34 Emetic plant
- 35 Ring around the sun
- 37 Prevent
- 38 Manage
- 39 "Since Hector was —"
- 40 Actress Moore
- 41 Vortex
- 44 Verily
- 45 Altheist's lack
- 46 Pitching stat.
- 47 "Platoon" locale

Solution time: 24 mins.

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ARF AVILA RAY
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AMO ENDUE OIL
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CRYPTOQUIP

V N E R W B E V B T R D Y T Q R F
B L K O D Y W V V K R K Y F
N X L W R F: "S L O D R W
Y T R Y X X Y X E Q R I"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAVING EATEN TOO MUCH ON A CRUISE, DIETER BELIEVES TRAVEL IS BROADENING.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: N equals C
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.