



CONGRATULATIONS: Australia's Catherine Freeman (L) is warmly embraced by teammate Melinda Gainsford after creating a new Commonwealth Games record time in the women's 200m final on August 26. Freeman's time was 22.25 seconds. Gainsford finished third. — AFP photo

Unique double for Freeman

VICTORIA, Aug 27: Australian aborigine Cathy Freeman completed a unique double on Friday when she won the Commonwealth Games 200 metres to add to her 400 gold, reports Reuter.

No woman has ever won both titles at the Games and the 21-year-old Australian has a chance of further medals in the 4X100 and 4X200 metres relays.

A fierce advocate of aborigine rights, Freeman ignored a strong hint from the Australian management that she refrain from carrying the aborigine flag again during her victory lap, as she had done after the 400 win.

Instead she carried both the aborigine and the Australian flags on a triumphant circuit of the Centennial Stadium after winning the 200 ahead of Nigeria's Mary Onyali in 22.25 seconds.

"The majority of Australians agree with what I'm doing and if I can make aborigines feel good about themselves by holding this aborigine flag in a victory ceremony on an international scale like this then I'll go ahead and do it," Freeman said.

"I know when aborigine people look at the flag it makes them feel good about themselves."

There was no problem with the management, it was my decision to take both flags at the same time.

After their triumphs in the swimming pool, the Australians enjoyed a successful day at the athletics with gold medals for Freeman and high jumper Tim Forsyth.

Forsyth, third equal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, won a jump-off with England's European silver medalist Steve Smith.

"I just ran and took off," Forsyth said. "I was actually in mid-air when I thought, 'I've got it.'"

England team captain Sally Gunnell had a mixed day.

The Olympic and world champion retained her 400 metres hurdles title comfortably enough but admitted she had made a mess of her stride pattern between the eighth and ninth hurdles.

Gunnell, who still clocked a Games record of 54.51 seconds, said: "I was hoping for a faster time, it was windy in the back straight."

She then dealt adroitly with a series of questions from reporters more interested in the two English athletes sent home early because of positive drugs tests rather than the intricacies of her strides between the barriers.

"It's hard to block it out of our mind," the Olympic and world champion said about the doping.

Asked whether it was time for a national inquiry into drugs in British sport, Gunnell said: "It needs something. It needs sorting out."

Former world champions Amuel Matete grabbed Zambia's first Games gold for 24 years when he won the men's 400 metres hurdles.

Matete, who clocked 48.67 seconds to beat the 20 year old Games record, only agreed at the last minute to run in Victoria after settling a long-standing wrangle with his national federation over money.

"If I hadn't come, we would have lost a medal, I want to show people in Zambia we

don't need to depend only on soccer," he said.

Frankie Fredericks struck another blow for the Africans by adding the Commonwealth 200 title to his world gold medal.

The Namibian student blasted out of the blocks and was first to the bend, winning in 19.97 seconds ahead of England's world silver medalist John Regis.

"I changed tactics from the World Championships," Fredericks said. "My plan today was to come to the turn in front of everybody."

Regis, who missed this month's European Championships because of an Achilles tendon injury, said he had strained an abductor muscle.

"My body appears to be breaking up," Regis said, adding that he might now forget about the remainder of the season.

Patrick Konchellah captured Kenya's second track gold when he outspurred South Africa's Hezekiel Sepeng to win the men's 800 metres in one minute 45.76 seconds.

Sepeng, the first black South African ever to win a Games medal, said: "By the time I hit the last 100 metres, I said to myself it's first three for me."

Australia collected their eighth cycling gold when their crack team pursuit quartet caught England in the final.

But Tanya Dubnicoff of Canada made sure the Australians did not have everything their own way in the Velodrome by lifting the women's sprint title.

With two days left, Australia remained in command of the medal standings with 66 golds. Canada stayed second on 29, with England third on 21.



Australia's Louise McPaul in action during the women's javelin final at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria on August 26. McPaul won the gold medal with a throw of 63.76 metres. — AFP photo

C'WEALTH GAMES MEDALS TABLE

VICTORIA, Aug 27: Commonwealth Games medals table after the eighth day of competition on Friday (tabulated — gold, silver, bronze):

Australia	66	45	31
Canada	29	30	41
England	21	32	32
Nigeria	10	8	8
India	6	9	6
New Zealand	4	14	12
Wales	4	4	2
Scotland	3	2	8
Kenya	3	2	6
Nauru	3	0	0
South Africa	2	3	4
Cyprus	2	0	2
Northern Ireland	2	0	3
Sri Lanka	1	2	0
Jamaica	1	1	3
Namibia	1	0	0
Zambia	1	0	0
Zimbabwe	0	2	2
Malaysia	0	2	0
Papua New Guinea	0	1	0
Sierra Leone	0	1	0
Pakistan	0	0	2
Guernsey	0	0	1
Hong Kong	0	0	1

Note: No silver or bronze medals awarded in the men's pairs running target shooting event, no bronze awarded in women's 50-km team cycling time trial and women's 4x200 freestyle swimming.

Medals for disabled events are not included.

Faulty take-off

TOKYO, Aug 27: A 17-tonne granite monument has snapped into two only five weeks before it was to adorn one of the venues for the Asian Games in the Japanese city of Hiroshima in October, an official said Saturday, reports AFP.

"We regret it very much as the Games are near at hand," Toshiyuki Yamaguchi, director of the Hiroshima prefectural gymnasium, said Saturday. "We will talk with the sculptor and see what we can do."

The monument, shaped like an airplane wing with one end touching the ground and called "tobitatsu" (taking off), is located in a square at the gymnasium, which will serve as the venue for volleyball and gymnastics.

A prefectural official said the monument — six meters (20 feet) long, two meters (seven feet) wide and 60 centimeters (24 feet) thick — broke at its midsection, which had been held up by a granite stand, possibly due to excessive weight.

He said the prefectural government would shortly decide whether they would repair or rebuild the monument with the two-week Games opening on October 2.

It was unveiled in February to mark the completion of the 360-million dollar gymnasium, which can accommodate 10,000 spectators.

Drug scandals dog Victoria C'wealth Games

LONDON, Aug 27: UP to 20 new positive drugs tests have been reported to international athletics authorities already reeling from a doping scandal overshadowing the Commonwealth Games, Britain's Guardian newspaper said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

"This is a harvest we are not happy to gather but it is the result of increased testing in competition," the newspaper quoted an International Amateur Athletic Federation official as saying.

"There are a lot of people out there working on random sampling this summer and these are the unhappy results."

The Guardian did not say which countries the athletes testing positive came from.

British athletics officials said on Friday they suspected skulduggery in the doping case of 800 metres runner Diane Modahl, who was expelled before a race earlier this week at the Commonwealth Games in Canada.

Russian officials apparently knew last month that she had failed her drugs test but the British Athletics Federation were told of Modahl's positive test only on Wednesday.

Modahl, the first British woman athlete implicated in a drugs scandal, was flown home from the Commonwealth Games on Thursday with shot putter Paul Edwards. They both showed positive traces of banned substances in their initial, or A, samples.

Campbell stays on course

VICTORIA, Aug 27: Australian Lisa Campbell remained on course to become the first unseeded player to win the Commonwealth women's singles crown by beating New Zealander Rhona Robertson 11-1, 12-10 on Friday, reports Reuter.

The Melbourne player, her feet badly blistered from two long matches on Thursday, showed no signs of the problem as she raced through the opening game of her semifinal.

Campbell plays Si-An Deng of Canada for gold today, having lost to her in last year's World Championships.

Race for 2002 Winter Games

PARIS, Aug 27: Salt Lake City, Utah, and eight other cities bidding for the 2002 Winter Games made campaign pitches Saturday to the most powerful members of the International Olympic Committee, reports AP.

The cities each made 15-minute presentations to the IOC executive board, five months before the list of candidates will be cut to four finalists. The IOC will make the final selection next June.

"Our presentation was straight-forward and brief," said Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt, part of the six-person delegation from Salt Lake City. "It was received well and warmly. Our bid is on the table. We are clearly now resolved to move forward and present the best possible representation of the United States."

Salt Lake City is making its fourth Olympic bid. Three years ago, the city was narrowly defeated by Nagano, Japan, in the vote for the 1998 Winter Games. It is considered a front-runner this time.

The other candidates are:

Paris, Switzerland; Poprad-Tatry, Slovakia; Jaca, Spain; Sochi, Russia; Graz, Austria; Ostersund, Sweden; Quebec, Canada; and Tarvisio, Italy.

The presentations were mostly a formality, a chance for the candidates to introduce themselves to the 11 board members and make a few brief points about their bids. But all were eager to leave a positive and lasting impression.

"I communicated the commitment of our state, the fact that we've had a referendum, that we are using public monies to build facilities, and that we working jointly with the city in order to assure continuity between the bid process and the actual hosting of the Games," Leavitt said. "We emphasized that we are now ready, both in terms of facilities and in preparation, to host the Games."

Also speaking for Salt Lake were mayor Deedee Corradini, bid committee president Tom Welch, committee chairman Fran Joklik, committee vice president Dave Johnson, and US Olympic Committee executive director Hrvy Schiller.

Corradini said that her remarks to the executive board

focused on "the enthusiasm for the Olympic movement and the Olympic spirit that we have."

The IOC evaluation commission will visit each site between mid-September and mid-November, and four finalists will be selected on Jan. 24. The winner will be elected at the IOC session in Budapest, Hungary, on June 16, 1995.

"We are competing actively with some very qualified, able cities," Leavitt said. "But it is clear to me that the technical nature of our bid is strong... No one will overlook this state in terms of the bid process. As things proceed, we feel a sense of confidence, but at the same time we're not going to leave anything to chance."

With the governor and mayor, Salt Lake City had the highest-level delegation of the bidding cities.

"Many of the other bidding cities have federal or national government support," Leavitt said. "In many cases they're underwriting the bids. That isn't the case in our situation, so it's very important that (the IOC board members) know and understand that we are firmly as a people behind this bid."

IOC towards 21st century

PARIS, Aug 27: World sports leaders meet to draw up a blueprint for the Olympic Games of the 21st century as they tackle the thorny issues of programme changes, doping and major IOC reform at the first Olympic congress to be held in 13 years, reports Reuter.

The week-long congress, to be opened on Monday by French President Francois Mitterrand, will also celebrate the centenary of the modern Olympic movement founded in Paris by Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch, whose 14-year tenure of office has already wrought radical reforms which would leave De Coubertin barely able to recognise the present-day Olympics as an idea he spawned, is set to keep his foot on the accel-

erator for further change.

The congress, which groups not just IOC members but also international sports federations and national Olympic committees from around the world, is likely to see a heated debate on which sports should be included in the programme from the 2000 Sydney Summer Games onwards.

Samaranch has indicated he expects triathlon and taekwondo to take their places as medal sports, but there may be support for other innovations, including a controversial one in golf, seen by some as an elitist pastime with no place in the Games.

The real controversy, though, may be over which sports face the axe to make way for the newcomers. Boxing, once under serious threat, looks set to survive but modern pentathlon and synchronised swimming enthusiasts can anticipate a nervous week.

The IOC has loudly pro-

claimed its leadership in the fight against drug cheats but, amid signs that victory is far away and may even be receding, there could well be calls for a rethink in the approach to one of sport's greatest cancers.

Though the Olympic body has successfully persuaded international federations to carry out random tests and harmonise penalties on offenders, IOC plans to bring on an extra weapon in blood testing have run into technical snags.

The congress will look for fresh ideas to counter the argument, increasingly heard, that drug use is now so ingrained in sport that the fight may as well be abandoned, as it was against professionalism and commercialism.

The biggest battle on Samaranch's hands, however, is likely to come should he decide to bite the bullet of reforming the structures of the IOC and widening its membership.



SPLASH! Australia's Jane Fleming lands safely during the women's long jump qualification competition at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria on Aug 26. Fleming qualified for the finals later in the day. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	31 Nonsense	DOWN	relaxation
1 UAR member	35 Postpone	1 Bread-winner	18 Bran source
6 UAR member	39 Real bad	2 Haunted-house sounds	21 Portrayer of Tevye
11 King of music	42 Smoke-cured salmon	3 Thither	23 "Ushant" author
12 Swoop down (on)	43 10th anniversary gift	4 Entreaty	Conrad
14 One whose job is pressing?	44 Hungarian wine	5 Contract clauses	25 Negative prefix
15 "Queen of Soul"	46 Guys	6 Rigorously austere	27 Tease
16 Geneticist's abbr.	47 Scottish recipe	7 Bygone times	29 Unseats
17 "Moon-struck" topic	49 Second partner	8 Ms. McClean	31 Aleph's followers
19 — for her eyes...	51 Addison's	9 Hospital employee	32 Fly
20 Minimal change	52 CIA staffers	10 Sore	33 Hang around
22 Perched	53 Sea flock	11 Approximately	34 Run up the phone bill
23 "Rule, Britannia" composer	54 Tars	13 Allows	36 Instigate
24 Bad lighting?			37 Decathlon segments
26 Money gained			38 Carries on
28 Spacecraft compartment			41 Half a '60s quartet
30 Suffix for beat or refuse			44 Mah-jongg piece
			45 Mediator's program
			48 Army VIP
			50 Sports-caster Allen

Solution time: 28 mins.

YARDS	DAW	OFT
APORT	OLE	PIA
MEDEA	COGGERS	
GIMLET	ARES	
RAE	PEN	AWARE
OARS	ATALA	
CASPER	VEILED	
RANGE	NORA	
REMIT	ARM	DEN
AVON	CRYING	
DOGGERS	LEEZIA	
LIKE	GOO	ERROL
OES	OWN	ROSES

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									54		

CRYPTOQUIP

BUPEOSD LZT NDZGMUC
 ZODPBV LRSG LQDA
 QN RKT DSVKDSSEGV
 USZMSA QPV

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WITH A FRESH NOVEL IN HAND, READER TURNS OVER A NEW LEAF.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: U equals L

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.