

C'WEALTH GAMES MEDALS TABLE

Australia	84	53	41
Canada	38	41	49
England	31	41	47
Nigeria	12	13	13
Kenya	7	4	8
India	6	11	6
Wales	5	6	6
Scotland	5	3	10
Northern Ireland	5	2	3
New Zealand	4	16	17
Nauru	3	0	0
South Africa	2	4	5
Jamaica	2	4	2
Malaysia	2	3	2
Cyprus	2	1	2
Sri Lanka	1	2	0
Zambia	1	1	2
Namibia	1	0	1
Zimbabwe	0	3	6
Papua New Guinea	0	1	0
Western Samoa	0	1	0
Pakistan	0	0	3
Hong Kong	0	0	2
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	2
Uganda	0	0	2
Bermuda	0	0	1
Guernsey	0	0	1
Tanzania	0	0	1
Botswana	0	0	1
Ghana	0	0	1
Norfolk Island	0	0	1
Seychelles	0	0	1
Tonga	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.



Mary Onyali of Nigeria exults after her country's victory in the women's 4x100m relay at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria on Aug 28. Nigeria's time was 42.99 seconds.

—AFP photo

Refractory reality rules over idealism

Dove-Edwin's fall from grace

Victoria '94. VICTORIA, Aug 29: The XV Commonwealth Games will be remembered for Australian achievement and Canadian enthusiasm but its slogan 'Catch the Spirit' had been replaced by 'Catch the Drug Cheat' long before the closing ceremony, reports Reuter.

Australia's extraordinary swag of 84 gold medals shattered all previous records and left traditional rivals England and Canada trailing vainly in their wake, particularly in the pool where Kieren Perkins broke the only world records of the Games.

Yet if one man summed up the uneasy relationship between the Commonwealth ideal and modern reality it was Horace Dove-Edwin, the hyphenated hero-turned-villain of the athletics track.

Until Sunday, the Sierra Leone sprinter had provided one of the Games' most heart-warming tales from his lack of any smart clothes for the opening ceremony to his silver medal in the 100 metres behind world champion Linford Christie.

When he was finally defrocked for using stanazolol, the same steroid which propelled Ben Johnson into infamy, it instantly stripped away yet another layer of the romance which has long protected the Games' modesty.

Dove-Edwin's fall from grace followed the third positive test of the Games, and the sixth involving athletes scheduled to perform in Victoria.

From the moment Nigerian relay runner Udeeme Ekpereyong was turned back at the airport after banned substances were found in his suitcase, fresh drug rumours were never far away.

Ghanian boxer Godson Sawah, English athletes Paul Edwards, and Diane Modahl and Jamaican high hurdler Robert Foster were all added to the list, a spread of names and countries which underlined the extent of the problem.

Other athletes would like to forget Sunday, too.

Australia's Cathy Freeman thought she had won her third gold medal of the Games when she overtook Sally Gunnell in the stretch and gained the 1,600 metres title for her country in a Games record time.

Minutes later, her team was disqualified because she had stepped in front of Nigeria's Fatima Yusuf and impeded her on the final bend. Nigeria was disqualified, too, for an illegal changeover.

From that point, it was protest and counter protest.

The English quartet, which finished second, also was initially disqualified. After they complained, too, officials gathered again to debate the race. Eventually, the English were given the gold medal and their time, 3:27.06, reprieved the Australians' 3:26.84 as the games record.

There was a long delay until the result of the final event, the men's 1,600 relay, was announced after more protests about that race. The outcome was disqualification for Kenya.

England's European champion Duaine Ladejo made up

10 metres on Jamaica's Garth Robinson on the final leg to beat him at the wire. England clocked 3:02.14, Jamaica won the silver and Trinidad and Tabago gained the bronze.

Steve Moneghetti came to the Games having won the marathon bronze medal in 1986 and the silver in 1990. This time he took home the gold.

The 31-year-old Australian plodded the rainsoaked Victoria streets to win in 2 hours 11 minutes 49 seconds.

Despite England's late haul, Australia dominated the 10-sports event.

The only drug fuelling the Australian team, so it seemed, was an overdose of national fervour.

The squad received 70,000 letters and 50,000 faxes from home, reflecting a medal count which read like a cricket score.

Their final gold tally was 32 more than the previous jointly-held record of 52 and enabled them to overtake England at the top of the all-time list. Second-placed Canada finished 46 adrift.

Of the 32 swimming golds on offer, the Australian squad won all but eight, including Perkins' world record in the 1,500 metres in which he also set a fresh 800 metres mark.

On Saturday, as if to illustrate their versatility, Australians won 17 golds in seven different sports, going even further towards justifying the massive 4.7 million Aus dollars (9.4 million US dollars) investment in the squad.

lived in a private mansion and was driven to the shooting range in a luxury limousine with three escort cars. He had an exclusive mobile home to rest in during the breaks.

But it was ordinary people — computer operators, electricians, plumbers, students and even a fisherman — who swept the titles in their largely anonymous sport.

Pistol prodigy Jaspal Rana, an 18-year-old student from India, gunned down two gold medals and came within striking distance of a third to become a national hero.

Rana showed a steely nerve in outshooting experienced Englishman Mickey Gault for the centre-fire pistol title after combining with Ashok Pandit for the team gold.

He shot 10 bullseyes under tiebreaker pressure to win, and an admiring Gault said it was a "pleasure to lose to that man".

And he almost denied Canada's Jean-Pierre Huot, a florist from Quebec, the final gold of the competition before settling for silver in the air pistol.

"He has become the star of international shooting at a very young age," Indian coach Sunny Thomas said. "He is going to win many laurels in the years to come".

Rana like trap winner Mansher Singh, has his sights trained on the Hiroshima Asian Games.

Australians reaped the richest gold harvest from Heil's Range, mirroring their overall Games performance, and denied the Canadians a clean sweep of the final four titles. The Aussies won 10 golds — two more than the Canadians.

English shooters, considered the biggest threat to Australian domination, grabbed 17 of the 94 medals, but only two were gold.

the whole exercise in Kuala Lumpur in 1998.

But even in Victoria far more people watched the nightly fireworks and free concerts than the actual events. By 2002, in showbiz terms, the Commonwealth Games could be no more than an end-of-the-pier act.

Team spokesman Ian Hanson suggested the secret was not so much the amount of money as the way it had been spent, citing the beneficial effect of the Australian Institute of Sport which is now attracting envious glances from abroad.

But even Australians are wondering if their Victorian triumph has been too much of a good thing. "Even the team leaders were beginning to shake their heads by the end," admitted Hanson. "I think people have got to look at it. We're getting better, but maybe the rest are getting worse."

Beneath the obvious determination of Victorians to make the most of their 10 days in the world spotlight, there were numerous other reminders.

From the bumpy bowling greens where Scotland's Richard Corsie took the hotly contested men's singles title to the boxing ring which provided a daily diet of controversy, lovers of the eccentric were rarely disappointed.

Australian official Arthur Tunstall added a whole new dimension to sports diplomacy, a compatriot Rob Parrelle promised to dye his hair yellow and green if he reached the bowls final and three Solomon Islands boxers arrived overweight after eating and drinking too much on the plane.

There were innumerable stories of personal triumph against all emotional odds and a firm commitment to repeat

in the ninth game of the second set with the score tied 4-4. Adams served a 109 mph (175 kph) ace down the middle, but failed to capitalize. Adams double-faulted and netted his next backhand shot from the baseline as Eltingh charged the net and went ahead 5-4.

In the women's final, eighth-seeded Judith Wiesner of Austria rebounded to a 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 victory over defending champion Larisa Neilland of Latvia.

Wiesner, who won dhs 27,000, showed the same

tendancy when she bounced back in the third round of the 1993 Lipton International, when she defeated Jennifer Capriati after being within one game of losing in straight sets.

Wiesner, who won her first

title of the year, will play Romana Tedjakusuma of Indonesia on Tuesday in the first round of the US Open.

But it was not just injuries that

And he knows it, reports AP.

"I would say my chances of winning are definitely not as good as they were in the mid-1980s," Lendl said of the period when he reached the US Open singles final a record-tying eight consecutive years.

Asked if he should be considered among the favourites, Lendl said, "I really haven't given it a thought."

Lendl will play in his 16th consecutive US Open today

when he faces Australian Neil Brownick on the Grandstand court. Neither is seeded.

If Lendl makes it past

Brownick, he will better his trip to the National Tennis Centre a year ago. That's when he was ousted in the opening round for the first time in his career.

During his eight consecutive trips to the title match, he won three times — all in a row

— from 1985-87.

The last two years haven't

been kind to Lendl's ranking.

Some of that can be traced to a series of injuries.

"I had a little back trouble

for a while (this year)," he said,

explaining his first year without

an ATP Tour title since 1980. "In general, it has been pretty good right now."

But it's not just injuries that

He and his team are

in the top 10 in the world for 13 consecutive years, second only to Connor's 16

straight. From 1985-88, he had an uninterrupted stretch of 157 straight weeks as No. 1 in the world, second again only to Connor's streak of 162 weeks.

He has held the No. 1 spot

longer than any other male

player, 270 weeks in all. His

first Grand Slam title came at

the 1984 French Open — his

first of three on the red clay

courts of Roland Garros —

when he came from two sets

down to beat McEnroe.

Only Wimbledon escaped

his grasp, and he reached

the final of the grass court event

in both 1986 and 1987.

But that's in the past, and

Lendl lives for the present and the future.

"I don't sit and home and

wonder what happened to the

game. I'm more interested in

my golf swing and my kids."

Hamlet Cup Kafelnikov's

COMMACK, New York, Aug 29: Red hot Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov continued his surge up the world's tennis ladder on Sunday by beating Cedric Pioline of France 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 in the final of the \$13,750 dollars Waldbaum's Hamlet Cup, reports Reuter.

The 20-year-old Kafelnikov, who was ranked 148th last August and started the year at number 104, will be 11th when the new rankings are released on Monday, according to an Association of Tennis Professionals spokesman.

The Hamlet Cup, the US Open warmup where last year Kafelnikov had to qualify to reach the main draw, became the fifth-seeded Russian's third tournament victory. Beating the sixth-seeded Pioline gave him a 51-1 match record since January.

The 18th ranked Pioline, who lost in last year's US Open final to Sampras, suffered his seventh career defeat in a final. He has yet to win a tournament since turning pro in 1989.

Pioline looked tired. Maybe he was sick," Kafelnikov said. "He had a trainer come out."

Pioline said he wanted the trainer to give him medicine in the second set as a precaution because his stomach "felt funny." He insisted: "It wasn't sick."

On the eve of the first day of the US Open, Kafelnikov said he was physically tired but was looking forward to his first Open.

"Maybe my body is too tired. There are five-set matches at the Open," he said. "On the other hand, with a day's rest between matches, maybe I'll recover."

Kafelnikov said he won't be disappointed if he loses his first-round match (to Sweden's Jacco Eltingh). "I did a good job at the Hamlet and won the tournament," he said.

But Graf's retreat from an exhibition last week, her loss in the first round at Wimbledon and the manner of her defeat against American player Mary Pierce