

## Sport



Britain's Colin Jackson clears a hurdle during the men's 110 metres hurdles at the Berlin Grand Prix on August 30. Jackson won with a time of 13.02 seconds. — AFP photo

## Jackson, Powell oblige

BERLIN, Aug 31: Britain's high hurdler Colin Jackson and American long jumper Mike Powell kept their pressure on Tuesday to share the richest prize in athletics — 20 bars of gold, reports Reuter.

World Champion Jackson continued his unbeaten run this season to win the 110 metres hurdles in 13.02 seconds while world record holder Powell triumphed in the long jump with 8.20 metres at the Berlin Grand Prix.

Both athletes clinched their fourth victories in the lucrative "Golden Four" series of meetings in Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin to share the jackpot of 20-one-kilo bars of gold, worth about 250,000 dollars.

It was a fitting payout for Jackson who made financial sacrifices last year when he dropped out of the richest meeting in athletics in Zurich to make sure of being for the World Championships.

Jackson said then that a championship gold medal was worth more to him than a case of gold bars.

But the 27-year-old Welshman has successfully combined money-making with victories in the European Championship and Commonwealth Games this season.

When it mattered he gave another flying display for the hurdles.

Jackson was pushed in the early part of the race by American Mark Crear on his inside. But he took control after the fifth hurdle to dip ahead of Crear who clocked 13.07.

It was fitting that Austria's Olympic champion Mark Mc-

Koy, who finished third in 13.29, went over to Jackson to give him a hug at the end of the race.

It was the former Canadian, a friend and training partner, who was on the top of the podium during one of Jackson's darkest days when failed to live up to expectations in the hurdles final at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Powell, deprived of a battle royal with his rival Carl Lewis who pulled out of the meeting at the last minute, was so happy with his pay day that he went over to touch the replicas of the golden bars at the side of the track after sealing his victory with his fourth jump of the competition.

Powell, who has been suffering with a groin strain in recent weeks, had started the competition with a no-jump but kept his composure to find his best in the fourth round.

World record-holder Jackson, whose time was the fastest in the world this year, said he had not been thinking about the gold when he went to his starting blocks.

"I just wanted to perform to my very best," said Jackson.

The gold is an added incentive but it is not the be-all and end-all.

"But it is good because it shows that our performances are appreciated like those of tennis players or racing drivers. But it's peanuts compared with Steffi Graf would win an Open."

Jackson said he hoped his victory would bring some pleasure to British athletics after their recent doping scandals.

"It is disheartening that so many people are being caught. It is not a nice thing that British athletics is in a bit of

turmoil.

I hope that the performances of me and Linford (Christie) will put a smile back on the face of British athletics."

Powell said he felt no extra pressure because of the gold.

"I just thought You have to be better than the others, and managed to do so," he said. "How I'm gonna invest the gold, I still have to think about that."

The meeting also witnessed Britain's Olympic and world 100 metres champion Linford Christie's second defeat in three days, and a season-best of 44.04 seconds in the men's 400 metres from American world champion Michael Johnson.

Christie finished third in a photo finish with American Olympic bronze medalist Dennis Mitchell and his compatriot Jon Drummond.

Mitchell won in 10.00 seconds as the three athletes crossed the line together with Drummond taking second in 10.01 and Christie just a hundredth of a second further behind in third.

"I just wanted to perform to my very best," said Jackson.

The two-late-season defeats, however, mean little to Christie who has peaked at the right time, successfully winning the European and Commonwealth 100 titles and beating the world's best sprinters in Zurich earlier this month.

"One day you win, the other you lose," said the 34-year-old Christie.

The 100 result brought some good news for Mitchell, whose life has been dominated in recent weeks by a brawl he had with Nigerian sprinter Olapade Adenikin in a hotel lobby after the Zurich meeting.

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## Ejection on the cards for English eyes

## Modahl tests positive

BIRMINGHAM, England, to help Britain qualify for the World Cup by beating Russia into second place by two points.

If banned, Modahl's disqualification would backdate to when she gave the test, so Britain would be docked the nine points earned from her European Cup win, giving Russia second and a place in the World Cup.

Modahl was very distraught and has shut herself away.

She has claimed her innocence and is adamant the testosterone levels were caused by a medical condition, but has not said what that condition is.

British team doctor Mal-

colm Brown has said there were irregularities in the tests and has called for a further inquiry.

The result of the "A" test was released last week during the Commonwealth Games nine weeks after the samples were given, a delay which angered British Athletic Federation officials.

When the result of the "A" test was announced last Wednesday, Modahl was flown home from the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, British Columbia, before she could start her defense of the 800-meters title, she won in 1990.

Modahl's is the fifth British doping case announced in the past month.

Modahl's "A" sample taken at a track meet in Lisbon, Portugal, on June 18 contained an excessive amount of testosterone, a male growth hormone which gives extra strength.

It is unusual for an 800-metre runner to test positive to a substance which enhances strength normally associated with sprinters or throwers.

The test was conducted on Tuesday at an International Olympic Committee accredited laboratory in Lisbon, Portugal. Modahl's husband Vicente, British Athletic Federation executive chairman Peter Radford and two British drugs experts witnessed the test.

The BAF said it will hold an emergency meeting of its management board on Wednesday night to discuss a date for a hearing and participation in the World Cup.

Modahl faces a BAF hearing which must be conducted within 30 days.

It is unlikely, however, that the hearing will take place before the World Cup which starts on Sept. 9. The IAAF has said it is confident the BAF will make a decision regarding the World Cup, but said it is "morally obliged" to pull out.

One week after the Lisbon meet, Modahl won the 800-metres at the European Cup in

American athlete Mike Powell kisses a bar of gold after winning the men's long jump at the Berlin Grand Prix on August 30 with a distance of 8.20 metres. Powell and British hurdler Colin Jackson divided twenty gold bars after completing a clean sweep in the "Golden Four" series. — AFP photo

## Martina's pledge

NEW YORK, Aug 31: Martina Navratilova is confident she can do more for tennis as newly elected WTA Tour Players' Association president than if she continued for another year as a player, reports Reuter.

"Tennis needs me better in this capacity than on the court because when my heart isn't in the game anymore, I wasn't going to do anybody any good losing in the second or third round," Navratilova said on Tuesday at a news conference at the US Open.

The 37-year-old Navratilova, winner of 18 Grand Slam singles titles, including a record nine Wimbledon crowns, has announced she will retire after this year.

She had been non-committal about her retirement plans — until the opportunity arose to help steer women's tennis in a transitional time when there is no principal sponsor for the tour.

"I think I can have a positive impact on the game as president and stay involved, stay in the game," Navratilova said of her one-year term in office. "I'm quite excited about the prospect."

Navratilova succeeds Pam Shriver as president.

"My first instinct has been to say 'no' to everything else," Navratilova said about requests on her time following her retirement.

"But my first instinct to this was 'Oh, I could do that,'" said Navratilova, who previously had served as president in 1979, 1980 and 1983.

"So once I realised that my heart said that would be a good thing to do, I started thinking about it intellectually and rationally and realised this is a great way for me to give something back off the court."

Navratilova said a top priority would be improving the relationships between the players and the fans and the media.

"I think the players know they need to be more accessible to the media as well as the fans, and develop a better relationship and also with the sponsors," she said.

"I think the players will listen to me if I make those requests because I've done it. It's easier to lead by actions rather than words and that's one of the pluses I would have as president."

Navratilova, who chose not to play the Open for the first time in 21 years because of a lack of physical fitness, won't let her presidency get entirely in the way of enjoying her retirement.

"It's not going to keep me from windsurfing and snowboarding or keeping me from going to Africa on a safari," she said.

**Rod Martin bids HK Open bye**

HONG KONG, Aug 31: The career of world number five Rodney Martin of Australia took another nose-dive Tuesday when he was eliminated in the first round of the Hong Kong Open squash by South African qualifier Craig Wapnick, reports AFP.

A former World Open winner and once ranked second in the world, Martin surrendered a two-game lead before being beaten 13-15, 10-15, 15-11, 15-12 by Wapnick.

Martin's loss continued a trend of upsets on the first day, with Australian qualifier Simon Baker disposing of world number nine Zarak Jahan Khan of Pakistan 16-17, 4-15, 15-9, 15-7, 15-10 in an earlier match.

A series of personal and fitness problems have plagued Martin since late last year.

He came into only his second match in a major tournament since March suffering the lingering effects of a hip injury, with Wapnick determined to make the most of his opponent's discomfort.

"I knew Rodney was having a little bit of a bad run with his movement," Wapnick said. "My fitness was the main thing today and it was one of the better matches I have played."

"What I tried to do was not panic. I wanted to keep the pressure up and not do anything irrational."

Once regarded as the only consistently able challenger to world number one Jansher Khan, 28-year-old Martin was beaten in the final of this event by his older brother Brett last year.

Khan was the most obvious beneficiary of Martin's loss, as his only other serious opponent in the top half of the draw is now world number three Peter Marshall of England, a 15-7, 15-7, 11-15, 15-9 winner over Australian qualifier Dan Jenson.

Seeking his sixth Hong Kong title, Khan strolled past England's Stephen Meads 15-11, 15-9, 15-11.

In other matches, England's Danny Meddings extinguished local hopes with a 15-10, 15-11, 15-10 defeat of Hong Kong wild card Andrew Shum, while world number 14 Simon Parke of England breezed past Mir Zaman Gul of Pakistan 15-12, 15-5, 15-5.

## Courier back bashing from back



NEW YORK, Aug 31: Jim Courier's two-week retirement from tennis officially ended on Tuesday with a convincing straight sets victory over fellow American Aaron Krickstein in the first round of the US Open tennis championships, report cables.

Courier, the top seed the past two years but now 11th since falling on hard times, completed a relatively upset-free second day at the Open with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over Krickstein in the Stadium Court night match.

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