



Chen Lixia of China performs 1-1/2 somersault during the women's final of the one-metre diving board competition at the World Swimming Championships in Rome on Sept 4. Chen took the gold medal ahead of her compatriot Ten Shuping and Canada's Annie Pelletier.

## Chinese dominance all over

ROME, Sept 5: Two Chinese women outshone world record holder Jenny Thompson in the 100 metres freestyle heats Monday as race swimming at the World Championships began with some surprises, reports AP.

Japanese breaststroke Akira Hayashi eclipsed Hungarian world record holder Karoly Guttler in the 100 metres heats and Australia's Kieren Perkins failed to make the final of the 200 freestyle.

All the women entrants from China and the US advanced to the finals scheduled for later Monday, for which the top eight heat times qualify in individual events.

The Chinese women swam the two fastest times in the women's 100 freestyle.

Lu Bin swam 55.54 to edge Thompson into second place in heat seven, but the American was only 0.02 behind. Both were slower than Le Jingyi, who clocked 55.38 in heat six. Another American, Angel Martino, won heat five but was sixth fastest overall.

Thompson broke her arm in May and competed at the national trials against doctors orders.

Denmark's Mette Jacobsen, German star Franz Van Almsick, Japan's Suzu Chiba and Britain's Commonwealth Games champion Karen Pickering also made the final.

China led qualifying in the 800 freestyle relay with a time of 8:08.32, with Germany finishing second in the same heat in 8:08.70. China's time was 2.42 better than the US squad, which won its heat ahead of Australia, which made the final, and Canada, which didn't.

Kristine Quance of the US led qualifying in the women's 400 individual medley ahead of China's Dai Guohong in her heat. American Allison Wagner, who has the best time of

1994, also won her heat but was slower than both.

Australian Hayley Lewis, who is aiming for four gold medals, won her heat but was fourth fastest overall.

Two Canadians, Nancy Sweetnam and Joanne Malar, made the final in spots six and seven and Hana Cerna of the Czech Republic and Japan's Hideko Hiranaka round out the field.

Hayashi swam the fastest 100 breaststroke in 1:02.01, the year's fourth-best time, to beat Guttler in their heat. Guttler made the final as third fastest.

Hungarian Robert Rozsa, owner of the year's best time, won his heat and clocked second overall.

Americans Eric Wunderlich, fifth fastest, and Seth Van Neerden, seventh, qualified for the final, as did Russian Vasily Ivanov, Australian Philip Rogers and Belgian Frederic Deburghraeve.

Britain's Nick Gillingham, twice an Olympic medalist in the 200 breaststroke, finished ninth and failed to make the final.

Perkins, who set world records for the men's 800 and 1,500 freestyles in one race at the Commonwealth Games 12 days ago, surprisingly was eliminated from the 200 with a 12th place showing. He had the year's third-fastest 200 coming to these championships.

The Australian long-distance specialist finished third in his heat behind Germany's Steffen Zesner and non-qualifier Lionel Poirot, of France.

Sweden's Anders Holmertz swam the year's second-best time of 1:48.95 to lead qualifying in the 200 freestyle. The two-time Olympic medalist already had the year's top time of 1:48.84.

Finland's Antti Kasvio was second in 1:48.96.

New Zealand placed two in the final, with Danyon Loader

third overall and Trent Bray fifth. Chad Carvin of the US qualified in sixth, but teammate John Piersma faded to 22nd.

Russian Roman Tchegolev, Hungarian Attila Czene and Zesner complete the final field.

Women's water polo resumed while the men took a day off and the women's 3-metre preliminaries were staged in the diving pool.

Zimbabwe's Evan Stewart was the upset winner of the first diving event, the men's 1-metre springboard. Since then, it has been gold, gold, gold for China.

After a victory Saturday for defending titlist and Olympic champion Fu Mingxia, Chen led a Chinese 1-2 in Sunday's 1-metre springboard before Yu Zhuocheng won the men's 3-metre event. This time Russia's Dmitry Sautin split the Chinese with Wang Tianling taking the bronze.

In the water polo pool Sunday, the United States men's team moved into the semifinal stage with a 9-7 victory over Germany and will meet up with the strong Croatian and Spanish teams in the second stage of the competition.

Three Hungarians and three Italians were suspended, however after a mass brawl in Italy's 11-10 victory in the men's event. Substitute players and even a coach weighed in as players fought in the water.

In the women's competition, Canada and Russia must play each other again after a controversial ending to a preliminary game the Russians won 7-6.

Canada, which was playing short-handed after having a player sent off for violence conduct, was refused permission by the referee to take out the goalkeeper and play all outfield players.

They appealed to the organizers who ordered a replay.

## Le eclipses Thompson's 100m mark

ROME, Sept 5: China's Le Jingyi set a world record for the 100 metres freestyle at the World Swimming Championships Monday, clocking 54.01 seconds to beat Jenny Thompson's mark of 54.48 set two years ago, reports AP.

The record was set in the first final on the opening day of race swimming at the championships.

Le was half a body length ahead of the field at half way, touching in 25.79, well inside Thompson's first touch mark of 26.62.

She eventually sliced 0.47 off the old mark as she romped to the gold medal with Thompson swimming home in fourth place in 55.16.

Le's countrywoman, Lu Bin, also was inside Thompson's mark, swimming 54.15 to place second and Germany's Van Almsick won the bronze in 54.77.

## Zelezny sets best this year

SHEFFIELD, England, Sept 5: Olympic Javelin champion Jan Zelezny produced the longest throw in the world this year on Sunday, but could not surpass the world record he set in the correspondent competition last year, reports Reuter.

The Czech threw an enormous 91.82 metres to beat Russian Andrei Moruyev by over five metres. Britain's Steve Backley, who triumphed over the Czech in the European an Championship in Helsinki, could manage only third with a throw of 84.78.

But there was more for the home crowd to cheer on the track, where Colin Jackson ran a scorching 13.03 seconds in damp conditions to stretch his winning record in the 110 metre high hurdles to 20 races.

Mark McKoy of Austria was second in 13.16 and American Allen Johnson was third with a time of 13.25.

Jackson now has three races to win — in Madrid on Tuesday, at the World Cup in London in a week's time, and finally in Japan — to complete the season undefeated.

"I am in a good rhythm so to beat me someone will have to run pretty well," said a confident Jackson after the race. "It must be demoralising for my opponents, for in rain, sun or shine. They know it's going to be hard going against me."

Namibia's Frank Fredericks won the men's 200 metres, finishing more than a second ahead of her nearest rival, Germany's Heike Meassner.

## Drought poses problem for Hiroshima Games

HIROSHIMA, Japan, Sept 5: The canoe course to be used for next month's Asian Games in Hiroshima could become a victim of Japan's drought, reports AP.

The official course has already dried up and the event may have to be cancelled or moved if there is no rain.

The water level at Yachiyo Lake at the western Japanese city, where the canoe event is scheduled to start October 5, is less than five per cent full, five metres lower than its normal depth.

The lake will completely dry up in two weeks if the drought continues, officials said.

"We expect no rain for the next week," said a meteorology agency official in Hiroshima on Monday. "We expect some rain in the second half of September, but we can never predict how much."

But a Hiroshima Games Organising Committee official was more optimistic. "We still have one month to go. We expect typhoons will arrive."



NEW YORK, Sept 5: Stefan Edberg has only himself to blame. For years, Swedish tennis players took their clue from Bjorn Borg, roaming the baseline and depending on heavy top spin to pull the ball down into the court.

Then along came Edberg and his serve-and-volley game, climbing to No 1 in the world and winning six Grand Slam titles, including two US Opens, reports AP.

Sunday night, Edberg met his clone — another Swedish serve-and-volleyer — and on this night, Jonas Bjorkman dominated.

Bjorkman had the bigger serves, the crisper volleys, the more penetrating groundstrokes. And when it was over, it was Bjorkman who had a berth in the US Open fourth round following an easy 6-4, 6-4, 6-0 victory over the fifth-

## IOC for shifting Atlanta marathon

PARIS, Sept 5: IOC medical officials Monday said track authorities should consider moving the men's marathon and 50-kilometre walk at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics to as early as 7:00 am because of risks to the athletes, reports AP.

"We have drawn attention to the fact that there may be dangers," said Prince Alexandre de Merode, head of the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission.

"But it is the responsibility of the IAAF," said de Merode, referring to the International Amateur Athletics Federation, track's governing body, which sets the competition times and favours an afternoon marathon.

Critics say the summer heat poses a risk to marathoners, who run 42.195 kilometres (26.37 miles) through city streets. Scores drop out during the race, some of them treated for heat exhaustion.

Competitors in the 50-kilometre (31.25-mile) walk face similar conditions.

Temperatures in Atlanta typically are in the mid-80s F (around 30 degrees C) or higher, with high humidity.

"We didn't say it had to be at 7 am, but we felt there was a danger," de Merode said at a news conference after he presented a medical report to an IOC general session here.

"That's as far as it went." The track and field competition is the only part of the athletic programme at the Atlanta Games that has not been finalised, largely because of the debate over the timing of the marathon, which normally begins between 2:00-4:00 pm.

The conditions between Atlanta and Barcelona are similar, perhaps better in Atlanta than Barcelona. IAAF spokesman Enrico Jacomini said. "There will not be a change in the scheduling of the men's marathon as the closing event of the Olympic Games."

The men's marathon, one of the marquee events of the Games, is traditionally held in the afternoon on the final day of the Olympics, always a Sunday, shortly before the Games' closing ceremonies.

Television viewership is high at that time and broadcasters who pay hundreds of millions of dollars for TV rights support keeping the marathon in its current slot.

The issue is to be considered before the IAAF's own medical commission.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 Easter	39 Dundee	57 Took off	plastic
5 entree	41 Iditarod	1 Owl's	17 Wooden-
8 Helium,	42 Basketball	perch,	shoe
e.g.	statistic	often	passenger
8 Frizzy	45 Dog-show	2 Largest of	19 Cupid's
hairstyle	prize	the seven	forte
12 "Under-	49 Fitzgerald's	3 Cartoonist	22 Who says?
stood"	of "Paradise"	Lazarus	24 Invite
13 Torched	51 Carry on	4 TV's	25 Former
14 Obfusc	of France	"Fresh	Mile.
15 Floss	52 The south	Prince	26 Civil War
structure	of New	of —	general
16 Burr role	Zealand	5 Brief looks	27 Dawn-
18 Diviner	53 Extinct	6 Football	related
whose ass	New	fill	29 Meadow
rebuked	54 Supple-	7 Period	30 Mr. Koppel
him	ments,	8 Classify	33 Big rig
20 All tuck-	with "out"	9 Back, to	36 Hansberry-
ered out	55 Door sign	a deejay	musical
21 Mischief	56 A billion	10 Took the	38 Ancient,
makers	years	A train	tongue
23 AMA types	Solution time: 26 min.	11 Paid by	40 Ending for
24 The food		of the gods	heir or lion
of the gods			42 One of the
28 Pinball no-			spheres
31 Dallas coll.			43 Send
32 J.C. Harris			44 Tide's
uncle			partner
34 Sandra			46 Create
or Ruby			crois-
35 "From			sants...
Here to			47 ...here
Eternity"			48 Raven's
actress			haven
37 Poor loser			50 — wop
			music

Costa 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic outlasted Todd Woodbridge of Australia 1-6, 5-7, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2, 7-6 (7-3); Argentina's Javier Frana eliminated Marcos Ondruska of South Africa 6-3, 6-1, 6-7 (3-7), 3-6, 6-4; and Jaime Yzaga of Peru defeated last year's surprise finalist, Frenchman Cedric Pioline, 1-6, 5-7, 7-5, 6-1, 6-4.

Advancing to the women's quarterfinals were second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, No 5 Kimiko Date, No 8 Gabriela Sabatini and Gigi Fernandez.

Sanchez Vicario defeated Ann Grossman 6-2, 6-2; Date stopped Leila Meskhi of

Georgia 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 7-5; Sabatini ousted Elena Likhovtseva of Kazakhstan 6-2, 6-1, and Fernandez downed Ginger Helgeson 6-3, 6-4.

Edberg fell down on the first point of the 10th game of the match, appearing to injure his right wrist. But he said it was not a major factor in the loss.

"It took a couple of points before it started feeling a little bit better, but it probably cost me the first set a little bit," Edberg said. "It was bad timing, but it didn't bother me the rest of the match."

"I lost the momentum a little bit. He got away with the first set and I think he gained some confidence. Then he didn't really give me a chance because he was serving very well."

The only service break in the second set came in the final game, when Bjorkman broke at 15, Edberg double-faulting on set point.

From then on, it was all Bjorkman, finding angles and passing lanes or booming unreturnable serves.

"I was really solid in my serve and volley and never made any easy mistakes," Bjorkman said. "And in the third set, I finally got my returns going. Then everything was there."

Everything except Edberg when the match ended 1 hour, 35 minutes after it started.

Sampras, seeking his third Grand Slam title of the year — his only loss was in the French Open — had a tougher time than the score might indicate. Smith, the second qualifier Sampras has played in his three matches so far, gave the world's No 1 player problems with his slice backhand, taking all of the pace off the ball.

"When I started, I didn't have the timing," Sampras said. "I felt a bit sluggish. I managed to get through somehow. He serves pretty well, and I had a hard time with that. It was a good match to get through."

"He has a pretty good serve and he messes the ball well. He has that chip backhand that comes back low. I didn't know what was coming. It took me a while to get used to his game."

Smith fought back from 5-0 in the fourth set, winning three straight games before Sampras closed it out.

## Bugno banned for two years

MILAN, Sept 5: Two-time professional world cycling champion Gianni Bugno was suspended from the sport for two years Monday because he tested positive for an excessive amount of caffeine after a minor Italian road race last month, reports AP.

It could be the end of the career for the Italian cyclist, who's 30 years old.

The suspension and a fine of 3,000 Swiss francs were decided by the Italian League of Professional Cyclists after second tests of Bugno's urine samples confirmed an excessive amount of caffeine.

Bugno, one of the most popular Italian cyclists, can appeal the suspension.

In cycling, caffeine in large amounts is considered a performance-enhancing substance.

The Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) reported last week that Bugno's urine tested positive for 16.8 milligrams per liter. The maximum permitted is 12 milligrams per liter.

## Second US member on IOC

PARIS, Sept 5: James Easton, president of the International Archery Federation, was elected Monday as the second US member on the International Olympic Committee, reports AP.

Easton's appointment ended a search of nearly three years to fill the IOC vacancy created by the resignation of Robert Helmick in 1991 amid conflict-of-interest allegations.

The 59-year-old Easton, head of the Los Angeles-based Easton Sporting Goods Company, joins former Anita DeFrantz as US members on the IOC. DeFrantz, a former Olympic rower, is also from Los Angeles.

Easton was elected by the IOC session after being endorsed by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch and the executive board. He was selected over several other American candidates, including former UN ambassador Andrew Young of Atlanta.

As members, they represent the IOC's interests in the United States.

The IOC elected 11 other members Monday on the last day of its two-day session, bringing its total membership to 100.

Five were elected to fill vacancies caused by the death or retirement of previous members. They were: Craig Reddie, head of the British Olympic Association; Mehamad (Bob) Hasna, an entrepreneur from Indonesia; Mario Pescante, chief of the Italian Olympic Committee; Gerhard Heiberg, chief organizer of the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Games; and Arne Ljunqvist, an IAAF doping expert from Sweden.

Six were elected as new members: Austin Llewellyn Sealy, president of the Olympic committee of Barbados; Robin Mitchell of Fiji; Alpha Ibrahim Diallo of Guinea; Alex Gilady of Israel;



Fifth-seeded Kimiko Date of Japan hits a backhand return to unseeded Leila Meskhi of Republic of Georgia during their fourth round match at the US Open in New York on Sunday. Date advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-2, 6-7, 7-5 win.

— AFP photo.