

Sport

Pioneer soccer

Mattual Udayan Sangha and Mirpur Eleven earned promotion to the Third Division football league when both sides won their respective semifinals of the Pioneer football league in tie-breakers at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Swedish tennis coach arrives today

Leonardo Snelleman, a Swedish international tennis expert, arrives today to conduct an Olympic solidarity tennis coaches' course, reports BSS.

NatWest heroes flash again

LONDON, Sept 7: Batting heroes of last weekend's NatWest final, Tom Moody, Graeme Hick and Brian Lara, ensured Worcestershire and Warwickshire stayed neck and neck for the Sunday League title when postponed matches were played on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

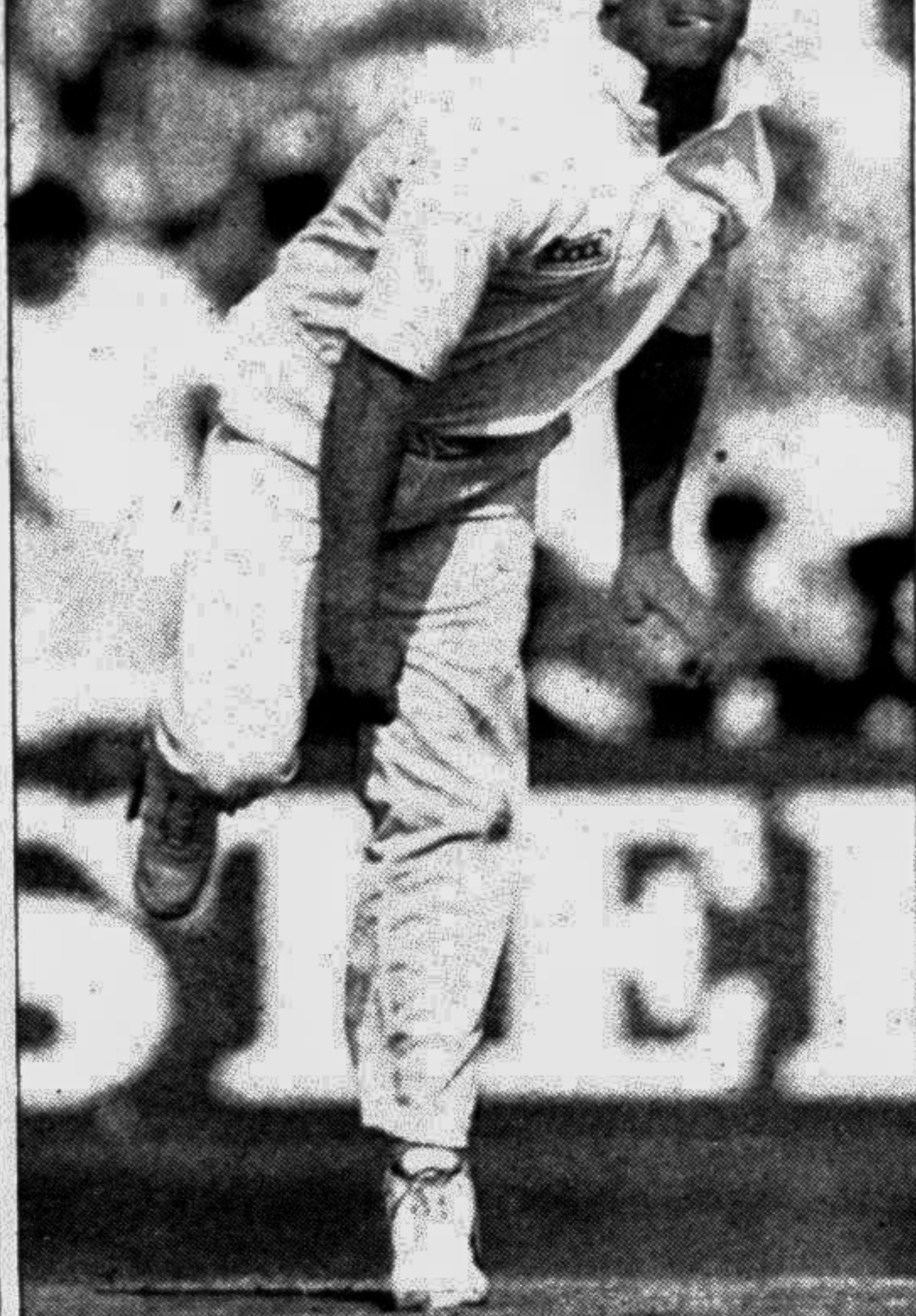
Santos without Pele again

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 7: Soccer legend Pele has left his job as a director of Brazilian soccer club Santos, the team where he spent 17 years as a player, after a row with club president Miguel Kodja Neto on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

World champions Warned

COLOMBO, Sept 7: Steve Waugh lived up to his tag of 'Mr Reliable' here Wednesday by bowling Australia to a dramatic 28-run victory over Pakistan in the World Series one-day international, reports AFP.

Waugh picked up three for 16 from 10 overs of steady medium-pace as the Australians pulled the rug from under the world champions at the Sinhalese Sports Club.



SHANE WARNE...man-of-match

Restricted to a modest 179 for seven from their 50 overs, the Australians fought back in the field to keep the strong Pakistani batting line-up down to 151 for nine.

Taiwanese President accepts OCA invitation

Politics clouds Asiad

TAIPEI, Sept 7: Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui accepted on Wednesday an invitation to attend the opening ceremony of next month's Asian Games in Japan, raising the prospect of a Chinese boycott of the event, reports Reuters.

Premadasa Stadium on Friday, Pakistan clash on Sunday with hosts Sri Lanka, who defeated India in the tournament opener.

Australian captain Mark Taylor attributed his team's emphatic victory to good fielding and bowling, and hoped to continue the good work in the remaining two matches.



Earlier, the Australians found run-making difficult against spot-on bowling after Pakistani captain Salim Malik won the toss and elected to field.

Left-arm seamer Wasim Akram claimed three for 24 to take his world record tally to 257 wickets, while leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed finished with two for 34.

Australia, who were 85 for five at one stage, were rescued from abject surrender by

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Lists players like Taylor, Slater, Waugh, and Akram with their respective stats.

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Table with 5 columns: Team, Wins, Losses, Draws, Points. Shows league standings for Sri Lanka, Australia, India, and Pakistan.

Taiwanese President accepts OCA invitation

Republic of China since its nationalist rulers fled to the island after losing the Chinese Civil War to the communists in 1949.

Taiwanese President accepts OCA invitation

sure from Beijing, Taiwan has entered 270 athletes. 'If the OCA decides not to invite President Lee under pressure from China and Japan, we do not rule out the possibility of a boycott of the Games,' Taiwan Olympic Committee (TOC) deputy secretary-general Chen Kuo-Yi told Reuters.

Sri Lankans celebrate

COLOMBO, Sept 7: Sri Lanka Tuesday celebrated a long-awaited one-day victory even as bad weather threatened to ruin the country's biggest cricket festival, reports AFP.

Sri Lanka's emphatic seven-wicket win over India in Monday's truncated opening match of the four-nation World Series gave home fans something to cheer about after seeing their team reduced to dust by Pakistan last month.

'We never seem to do well in important tournaments, but I hope it will be different this time,' he said Tuesday.

To reach the final we will have to win one of our remaining two games against Australia and Pakistan. It is not an easy task, but not impossible either,' Ranatunga said.

Tan adds one to China's haul

ROME, Sept 7: Tan Shuping won China's fourth diving gold of the World Championships Wednesday, producing two late spectacular efforts to leave the field well behind in the women's 3-metre springboard, reports AP.

Tan finished strongly to place first with 548.49 points, 49.89 ahead of silver winner Vera Il'yina of Russia, with Germany's Claudia Bockner third.

American Karen Dalton saved her best of the 10 dives for last and pulled into fourth. Sri's second dive moved her into top position, which she never relinquished.

Taiwanese President accepts OCA invitation

China's divers, and their less-successful competitors, attribute the run to long training sessions.

Botham in black & white

LONDON, Sept 7: Cricketering legend Ian Botham, launching his autobiography on Tuesday, rounded fiercely on his critics and pleaded for a chance to have a say in the English teams of the future, reports Reuters.

In his book, he admits to smoking cannabis on tour, attacks selectors' chairman Ted Dexter for too often crossing a line between 'eccentricity and idiosyncrasy' and describes former teammate Geoff Boycott as 'selfish.'

'I would like to help select the team, motivate the boys,' he said.

The man who was the epitome of punch and aggression in his own career, which included 12 games as England captain, had just one complaint about the team picked for the Australian tour - he would not have left out Derbyshire's Dominic Cork.

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ant career into one long tale of sex, drugs and rook and roll. Echoing a familiar complaint also voiced by tennis superstar John McEnroe, he said: 'What I objected to was all those guys who flew in, stirred up a hornet's nest and made everything unsavoury.'

But he said in the autobiography that he did smoke drugs on the 1983-1984 New Zealand tour.

'Drugs was merely a way out of the pressures,' he said. It is not something I condone. There were times when I hid in my room, had a joint and totally switched off - otherwise I think I might well have gone

round the bend.' 'Botham, who scored 5,200 runs and took 383 wickets and 120 catches in his Test career, verges on the viriolic in some tersely delivered judgements. Of Dexter, he writes: 'He crossed the line between eccentricity and idiosyncrasy far too often for someone who was supposed to be running English cricket.'

Botham, whose ego shows no signs of deflating when reviewing his own career, says of Boycott: 'The biggest impression he made on me was what a selfish person he can be... he simply went too far, too often.'

Pakistan captain Imran Khan is not spared any brickbats when 'Beefy' Botham turns to the sensitive issue of ball-tampering.

'Unlike Imran Khan, I have never lifted the seam, I have never scratched the surface of the ball and I have never gouged one with a bottle top.'

Now busy with charity walks, television quizzes, pantomimes and a theatrical roadshow, he said: 'I make no apology for the way I have conducted myself over the years. I have no regrets.'

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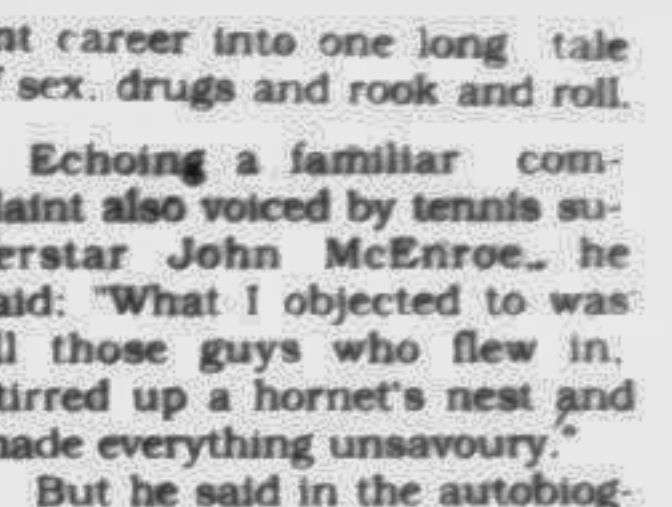
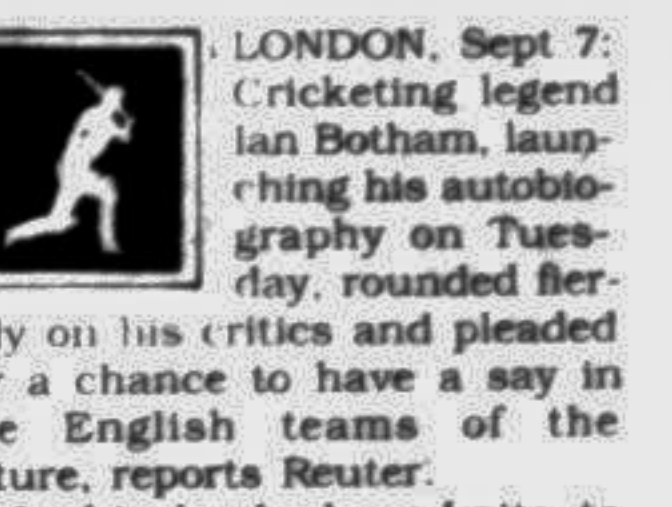
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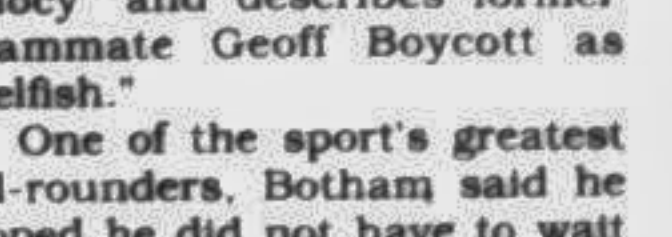
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IAN BOTHAM



Franziska van Almsick

totaling about 4 million. That figure certainly will rise with her new status as record-breaking gold winner.

The German said through an interpreter that she learned of the withdrawal from my coach and he knew form Hase's coach. Together the two coaches decided I could compete.

With rumours still buzzing about the switch, she added that she believed Hase 'decided alone' to withdraw.

Asked if she'd share the gold with her teammate, Van Almsick said, 'I'm very grateful to Hase but I won the race alone and I'll keep the medal.'

It's Van Almsick's third in two days; on Monday, she was third behind world record-setting Chinese Le Jingyi in the 100 free and was on the German team that finished second to the Chinese in the 800 relay.

Dolan started swimming because doctors said it would help alleviate breathing difficulties during the morning qualifying. Dolan said his breathing was fine during the final. 'Tonight I just got into a zone and didn't think about it.'

After taking all three women's golds Monday, the Chinese did not win a race Tuesday. Australia's Samantha Riley, who beat world record holder Rebecca Brown twice at the Commonwealth Games two weeks ago, did it again in Rome, taking the 200 breaststroke in a championship record 2:26.87.

Sweden won the men's 800 freestyle relay in 7:17.74, with the favoured United States a surprising fourth.

Five world record holders were in action Wednesday, including 100 freestyle star

Alexander Popov and long-distance specialist Janet Evans.

In women's diving, top qualifiers Tan Shuping of China, already a silver winner at these championships, and American Karen Dalton vied for the 3-metre springboard title.

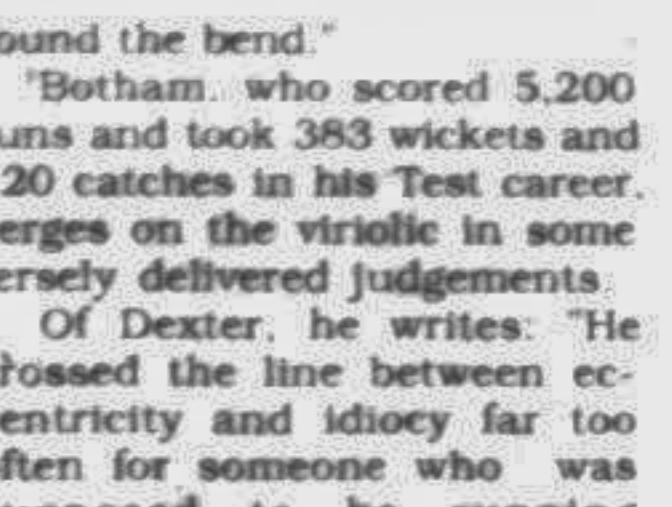
Second round seedings for the women's water polo competition were completed by the replayed Canada-Russia match. Officials ordered a replay of Saturday's game after Canada successfully protested a referee's decision.

MEDALS TABLE Medal table after the sixth day of the World Swimming Championships on Tuesday (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

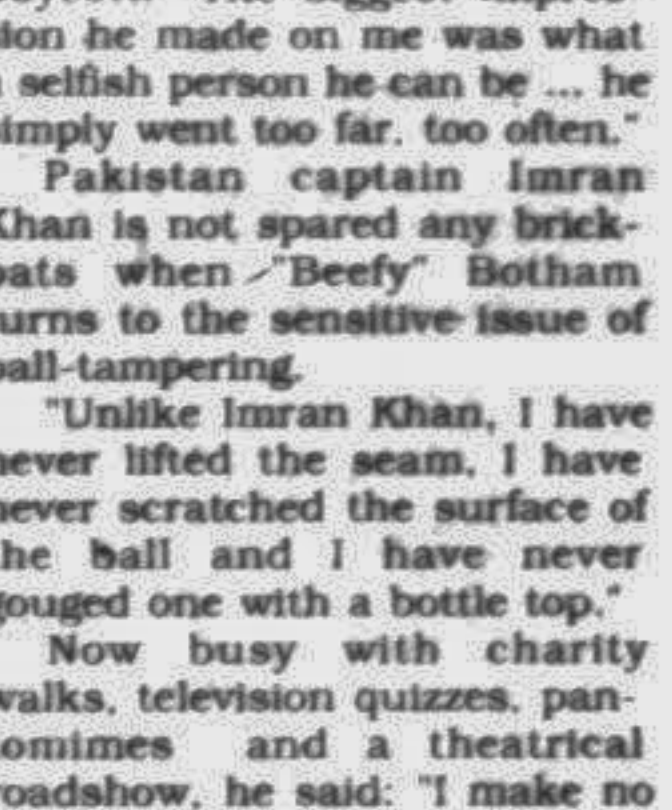
Table with 3 columns: Country, Gold, Silver, Bronze. Lists countries like China, Sweden, and United States with their medal counts.

Sutter strikes for Swiss SION, Switzerland, Sept 7: Switzerland beat the United Arab Emirates 1-0 (halftime 1-0) in a friendly soccer international on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

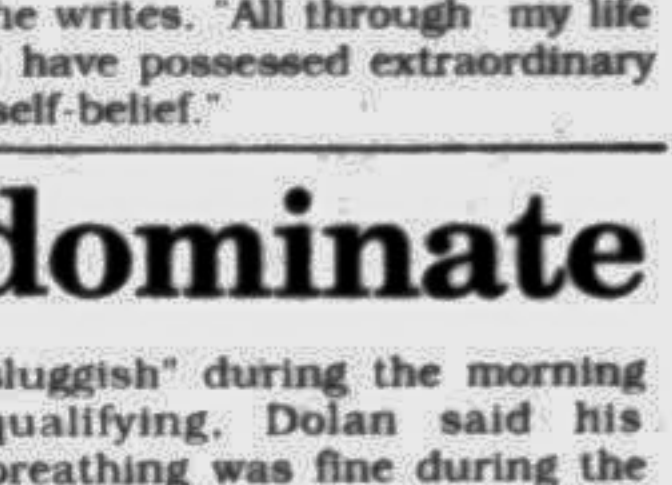
Scorer: Alain Sutter (20th).



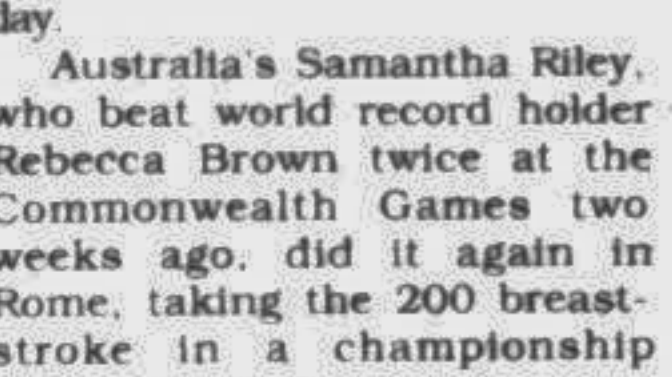
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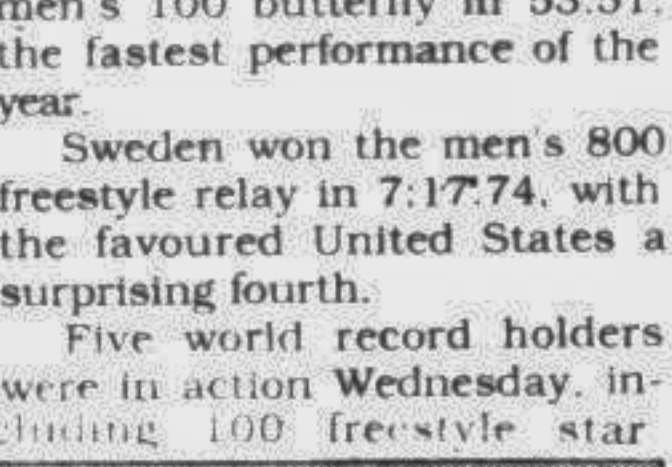
Tan Shuping



Dolan



Tan Shuping



Dolan