

Sport



Britain's Sally Gunnell strides over the last hurdle on her way to winning the women's 400 metre hurdles at Crystal Palace in London on Sept 9. Gunnell clocked 54.80 seconds. — AFP photo

US pair bags synchro gold

ROME, Sept 10: Becky Dyer-Lancer and Jill Sudduth won the duet synchronised swimming Saturday at the World Swimming Championships giving the United States two golds in as many synchro events, reports AP.

Japan's Fumiko Okuno and Miya Tachinbana finished second, and Canada's Lisa Alexander and Erin Woodley took bronze.

The US duo won with 187.009 points. Japan and Canada both finished with 186.259, but the tie was broken on the basis of artistic impression marks. Japan received a perfect 40 in that category, to Canada's 39.

Dyer-Lancer won the solo competition Friday and aims for a clean sweep in Sunday's team event.

Okuno and Alexander also finished 2-3 in the solo final.

Spurs sign Popescu

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands, Sept 10: Romanian defender Gheorghe Popescu is to join World Cup colleague Ilie Dumitrescu at Tottenham Hotspur after the English club reached an agreement with PSV Eindhoven on Friday, reports Reuter.

Tottenham paid about nine million guilders (5 million dollars) for Popescu, who signed a five-year contract to play for the London side, the Dutch news agency ANP reported.

Popescu's signing takes Tottenham's spending to around eight million pounds (12.39 million dollars) after enticing German striker Juergen Klinsmann to White Hart Lane after the World Cup.

Popescu, 26, joined PSV in 1990 and played in all five of Romania's matches in the United States.

The sweeper's transfer comes after months of speculation that he would leave for Tottenham, who have made a sparkling start in the Premier League with three wins in their first four matches.

DPRK might take part in Asiad

TOKYO, Sept 10: North Korea is reconsidering sending a delegation to Hiroshima for the Asian Games in response to a request from Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka, the Kyodo news service reported Saturday, says AFP.

Pak Myong-Chol, president of the North Korean Olympic Committee, told the news agency that he had received a letter from the mayor urging North Korea's participation in the Games starting October 2.

Pak, who is also chairman of the State Physical Culture and Sports Committee, said that Pyongyang was ready to reconsider the matter as the letter eagerly sought the attendance of North Korean officials.

The letter was delivered by Japanese lawmaker Kanji Inoki, who visited Pyongyang this week.

Cambodians in Tokyo

TOKYO, Sept 10: Cambodian athletes arrived here Saturday to take part in the Asian Games, the region's biggest sporting event, for the first time in 20 years, reports AFP.

The Cambodians will take part in track and field, badminton, boxing, judo and table tennis. They will have two weeks of training in Saitama, northwest of Tokyo, before heading for Hiroshima around September 26.

Stars on their courses

ROME, Sept 10: Defending titlist and world record holder Jeff Rouse

breezed into the final of the 100 backstroke at the World Swimming Championships Saturday.

So did Alex Popov in the 50 meters and Kieren Perkins in the 1,500. But German star Franz Van Almsick, gold medalist and world record holder for the 200 freestyle, was denied a chance of another success in the medley relay when her countrywomen missed out on a place in the final by 0.01 of a second.

Allison Wagner, silver medalist in the 400, was fastest qualifier in the 200 individual medley and the American women were quickest in the heats of the 400 medley relay.

In the final later Saturday they would meet a power-packed Chinese quartet likely to smash the world record. Le Jingyi, who broke the world 100 freestyle record on Monday, didn't swim in the heats but was expected to be called up for the final.

Six world records already have been set in four days of swimming and another world record holder in action later was American long-distance specialist Janet Evans in the 800 freestyle.

Popov, who set his world mark of 53.86 seconds in the first leg of a relay at the Barcelona Olympics two years ago, swam 55.35 this time. Behind the American in heat seven came Spain's Martin Lopez-Zubero, world record

holder over 200, and he was second fastest overall in 55.62.

Russia's Vladimir Selkov, who beat the Spaniard to the 200 gold, placed third in that heat in 56.04. Another American, Brian Reterer, won his heat in 55.79 to make the final.

Lea Loveless (backstroke), Kristine Quante (breaststroke), Whitney Phelps (butterfly) and Angel Myers Martino (freestyle) won their heat in 4:11.37 to beat the second place Canadians by 3.28 seconds.

There was a thrilling finish to the third heat involving the Chinese and Australians.

American swimmer Gary Hall, who won the silver medal behind Popov in the 100 final, placed first in his heat in 22.80.

Perkins broke the 800 and 1,500 world records two weeks ago at the Commonwealth Games and appeared to take it easy in the 1,500 heats. The final is Sunday, the last day of the championships.

This time he swam 15:13.95, well over a half minute slower than his world record 14:41.66 set in Victoria, British Columbia. Behind him in heat four, Japan's Masato Hirano broke the Japanese record by some 10 seconds as he came home in 15:14.44 to beat Americans Carlton Bruner and Chad Carvin. Bruner made the final but Carvin didn't.

Perkins' countryman Dan Kowalski, was fastest qualifier in 15:11.43.

Wagner and countrywoman Nicole Haislett dominated heat four of the 200 medley and posted the two fastest qualifying times.

Wagner clocked 2:15.78

Two more for Sydney Games

PARIS, Sept 10: The up-and-coming sports of taekwondo and triathlon both won places on Saturday on the programme of the Sydney 2000 Games, the International Olympic Committee said, reports Reuter.

An IOC spokesman said the decision was taken by the IOC's ruling executive board and had to be ratified by rank-and-file IOC members on Sunday or Monday.

Taekwondo — a martial art that originated in Korea and is now practised in over 100 countries — and triathlon — a combination of swimming, cycling and running — were among 11 sports fighting for a

lucrative place on the Olympic programme.

Two other events, softball and beach volleyball, are on the programme for Atlanta in 1996 but the IOC will not decide until after those Games whether they should continue in Sydney.

According to the Olympic charter, the IOC must give Games organisers six-year's notice about what sports they should include on their programme.

But IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch told a news conference before the executive board meeting that additions could also be discussed at an IOC meeting in Budapest next June.

IOC spokesman Andrew Napier said taekwondo and

triathlon would both be on the programme for Sydney only.

Taekwondo was a demonstration sport at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Its inclusion was fought for by IOC vice-president Kim Un-Yong, a South Korean who heads the World Taekwondo Federation.

The board decreed that triathletes would have to cover the official Olympic distance — a 1.5-km swim, 40-km cycle race and 10-km run — rather than allow more than one triathlon event at the Games.

The decision came after sports officials from around the world wrapped up the centenary Olympic congress with a solemn declaration pledging to step up the fight against doping and give athletes more power.



South Korean President Kim Young-Sam is seen among the athletes, training for the upcoming Hiroshima Asian Games at the Taenung camp in northern Seoul, during a courtesy visit on September 9. South Korea will send a 725-strong contingent to the Asian Games.

— AFP photo

UCBSA sticks with Wessels

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 10: Kepler Wessels is to continue as South Africa's captain and leads his country in a triangular one-day tournament in Pakistan next month, reports Reuter.

The announcement by the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) on Saturday ended recent speculation about a change in the leadership.

Hansie Cronje remains vice-captain for the limited overs competition which also includes Australia and starts on October 12.

There had been some initial doubts as to whether Wessels, who has suffered knee trouble, would risk touring Pakistan for a one-day tournament.

But UCBSA managing director Ali Bacher told Reuters on Saturday: "Kepler has indicated to both me and (convenor of selectors) Peter Pollock that he doesn't anticipate any further problems with his knee."

"He is 100 per cent fit and I, for one, will sit comfortably in South Africa knowing that Kepler will be opening the batting for his country against the likes of Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram for Pakistan. The team certainly needs his experience and determination."

South Africa's squad of 16 has a number of changes from the side who recently toured England.

Into the party come off spinner Derek Crookes — the sole newcomer in the squad — left-arm spinner Olive Eeksteen, all-rounders Adrian Kuiper and Eric Simons, and fast bowler Meyrick Pringle.

Omissions from the squad who went to England are fast bowler Allan Donald, because of a toe injury, veteran batsman Peter Kirsten, off-spinner Pat Symcox and wicket keeper-batsman Gerhardus Liebenberg.

TEAM

Kepler Wessels (captain), Hansie Cronje (vice-captain), Darryl Cullinan, Derek Crookes, Fanie de Villiers, Clive Eeksteen, Andrew Hudson, Gary Kirsten, Adrian Kuiper, Brian McMillan, Craig Matthews, Meyrick Pringle, Jonty Rhodes, Dave Richardson, Tim Shaw, Eric Simons.

Chapple bowls Lanes to victory

LONDON, Sept 10: Glen Chapple claimed a career-best six for 48 on Friday to bowl Lancashire to a 10-wicket county championship victory over Durham inside two days at Stockton, reports Reuter.

The German quartet of Sandra Walker, Jana Dorries, Katrin Jake and Katrin Meissner, largely a second-string team, placed second in heat one behind the Russians.

Chapple, chosen for the England A tour to India this winter, justified his call-up by helping dismiss Durham for 111.

Needing 69 for victory, England captain Mike Atherton hit an unbeaten 39 to guide Lancashire to their emphatic triumph.

England seamer Darren Gough's devastating spell of five for five in 29 balls put Yorkshire on top against Surrey at Scarborough.

Gough's efforts helped Yorkshire reduce their opponents to 185 for seven before they recovered with an unbroken eighth-wicket stand of 84 between Adam Hoolicake and James Boiling.

Bradley Parker hit a career-best 127 in Yorkshire's 379.

Middlesex's former England off-spinner Jon Emburey claimed the 1,500th first-class wicket of his career as he and Phillip Tufnell spun Gloucestershire into deep trouble at Lord's.

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It's a special day for me because it's Monza, it's Ferrari.

Oakley's 21 Elevator man

4 Thin cracker

5 Enthusiastic, plus

6 Postal Creed word

7 She sheep

8 Cunning Session with a shrink

9 Solution time: 26 mins.

10 Ephah + 10 30 Staminate

11 Bouquet

12 Consider

13 "Grapes of Wrath" hero

14 Buster Brown's dog

15 One of three dailies

16 Europe's neighbor

17 Thanksgiving veggies

18 Run-down roan

19 "How Green — My Valley"

20 George's brother

21 Urban music style

22 Parched

Christie, Ottey defy odds

LONDON, Sept 10: Linford Christie and Merlene Ottey defied age and the elements on Friday to win the men's 100 metres and women's 200, respectively on the opening day of the three-day athletics World Cup, reports Reuter.

Britain's Christie, the

greatest at 1.7 metres a second to beat European champion Irina Privalova and Commonwealth gold medalist Cathy Freeman, the excellent time of 22.23 seconds.

Ottey, who at 34 is the same age as Christie, said the Briton continued to inspire her.

"I'm looking at Linford, he's running 9.8, he keeps getting better," she said.

Privalova added: "Merlene is technically better than she was five years ago."

Britain's Sally Gunnell, as expected, won the 400 metres hurdles comfortably then came from third to first to anchor the 4X400 metres relay team to first place in the last event of a chilly, wet London evening.

The British team stand to lose all their points if 800 metres runner Dianne Modahl loses an appeal against a four-year sentence of a positive testosterone test.

Modahl ensured Britain qualified for the cup by winning the 800 metres in the European in June.

But a splendid last lap in the relay by Gunnell, hand-timed at 50.8 seconds, lifted her team's spirits and put them into third place behind Europe and the Americas.

"It was a great way to finish the season," Gunnell said. "I never ran before a crowd like there was out there tonight."

"I kept thinking they wanted us there — that was important to me. It was a great feeling to run in front of a crowd like that."

Earlier Jamaican Ottey, running for the Americas, made light of a head wind

into the wind.

"I didn't panic, I kept calm and about 60 metres I felt my legs coming back and I think

the crowd had a lost to do with that."

The powerful African men's team, defending the title they won for the first time in Havana two years ago, lead the men's table with 39 points, seven points ahead of Britain.

Morocco's Olympic champion Khalid Skah ran the 10,000 metres virtually on his own to ensure a maximum

gust at 1.7 metres a second to beat European champion Irina Privalova and Commonwealth gold medalist Cathy Freeman, the excellent time of 22.23 seconds.

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