

Svetlana Mounkova of Uzbekistan soars over the bar at 1.92 m during the women's high jump competition at the Asian Games yesterday. Mounkova captured the gold. — AFP photo

Queens have lost their crowns

HIROSHIMA, Oct 14: The three housewives nagged back to the running track by their husbands have now been forced to admit defeat in their attempt for final Asian Games glory, reports AFP.

China, Uzbekistan steal show

HIROSHIMA, Oct 14: China captured two field events but shared the limelight with central Asian nations as track competition resumed at the Asian Games Friday, reports AFP.

19.87. The Chinese women won the discus, with Min Chunfeng taking the gold with a throw of 62.52 metres and, Ikuko Kitamori of Japan the silver with 53.92. South Korean Chung Hye-young's throw of 44.22 gave her the bronze in a competition well short of the Asian record distance.

most of the 43 track golds. After three events of the decathlon, Ganiev had won two but trailed Cai in points because of the Chinese athlete's margin in the 100-metre sprint, which he won in 10.78. Ganiev took the long jump with a 7.34-metre leap and the shot put at 14.20 metres.

Mizui shatters Susanti's dreams

HIROSHIMA, Oct 14: Hisako Mizui of Japan upset Olympic gold medalist and All-England champion Susanti in Friday's semifinals of women's singles badminton, wrecking Susanti's dream of an Asian Games gold medal, reports AP.

Susanti, the world's top player, had said winning an Asian Games title was one of her remaining ambitions in the sport, but Indonesia was beaten 4-1 by South Korea in last week's team final.

Mizui, a 22-year-old Tokyo office clerk, stunned the top-seeded Susanti 11-4, 11-5 and now will face Bang Soo-hyun of South Korea in Saturday's final. Bang defeated second-seeded Ye Zhaoying of China 10-12, 11-8, 11-3.

Susanti had struggled to a three-set victory over China's Han Jingna in the quarterfinals.

Indonesian teammates Joko Suprianto and Arbi Heriyanto succeeded where Susanti failed and will meet in the men's singles final.

Suprianto, ranked No 2 in the world, defeated Kim Hak-kyun of South Korea 15-6, 15-5, while Arbi beat Dong Jiong of China 15-7, 15-7.

Another tussle between Ma, officials on card

HIROSHIMA, Oct 14: Mercurial coach Ma Junren's smile was slapped off his face at the Asian Games here on Friday as his greatest hour was wrecked by a drugs scandal — and a direct attack on him by one of China's top officials, reports AFP.

Ma, made famous by his army of world-beating women runners, saw his first male champion Sun Ripeng storm home in the men's 3,000m steeplechase as China bagged six of the ten golds on offer.

But already, as Sun triumphantly paraded the Chinese flag around the stadium, the talk had turned to drugs as secretary of the Chinese national Olympic committee Wei Jizhong revealed champion discus thrower Qiu Qiaoping had tested positive for anabolic steroids.

Wei then immediately turned his sights on Ma.

"Last year we found that Ma's athletes were being trained too hard to break world records," he said.

"I told sports officials to pay attention to this and to stop it."

Ma came here determined to prove he could develop a stable of men runners to match 10,000m champion Wang Junxia and 1,500m number one Qu Yunxia.

Sun's victory over favourite Sa'ad Shaddad Mouazze of Saudi Arabia in a new event record of 8min 31.73sec, following Ma man Mu Weigo's silver in the 800m earlier in the Games, should have proved the point.

But by then the focus of attention had switched dramatically.

Wei's attack clearly suggests Ma faces further power struggles with liaoning officials over his training methods, which brought three gold medals at the World Championships last year.

His runners, however, have failed to repeat that form this year and have got nowhere near their record bests here.

Ma said: "There is no competition — they cannot run fast with nobody to push them."

Chinese assault unabated, ROK overtakes Japan

HIROSHIMA, Oct 14: South Korea today fought back to second place at the Asian Games, setting the scene for a nail-biting finish in a battle with Japan to be runner-up to China, report agencies.

With the Games entering their last 48 hours, South Korea had 57 gold medals to Japan's 52, both of them far behind China's 127 golds.

There were still about 40 gold medals to be decided and none was willing to forecast who would come out the winner between the land of the rising sun and the land of the morning calm.

They are traditional rivals and for the last two Asian Games South Korea has come out on top. But this time Japan hoped that with a home ground advantage and with the biggest team it might make up ground.

China has already wrapped up the champion title it first won at New Delhi in 1982 when it replaced Japan.

South Korea has made its move into second place because of an unexpected strong showing in judo where it has won six golds to favourite Japan's five. Four other judo golds are up on Saturday.

It was a mixed day for the Chinese with their track and field stars taking seven out of 10 gold medals but once again a drug cloud descended.

While Liu Xiaomei was crowned Asia's sprint queen and the first male recruit to Ma's family army won gold, the Chinese team were thrown into turmoil by the revelation that absent discus thrower Qiu Qiaoping had failed a dope test.

In Qu's absence, the women's discus was won by another Chinese woman, Min Chunfeng, with a throw of 62.52 metres.

Min's winning throw was considerably below Qu's personal best of 66.60 metres and there seems little doubt that Qu would have taken first place in Hiroshima had she competed.

Sun Ripeng, one of the first men to come under the stern eye of Chinese coach Ma

Junren, made an astonishing sprint at the end of the 3,000 metres steeplechase to humble Saudi pre-race favourite S al-Mozaze.

The only break in the Chinese women's domination at track and field Friday came when Asia's top high jumper, Svetlana Mounkova of Uzbekistan, won her event with a leap of 1.92 metres.

The 400-metre and 400-metre hurdles races both were 1-2 sweeps. Ma Yuqin won the flat 400 in a Games record

seconds, led the qualifiers in a time of 20.85.

The South Koreans repeated their 1990 triumphs in women's field hockey and men's handball. They clinched the hockey gold Friday by blanking Japan 4-0, and took the handball title by beating the Japanese 26-21.

They also won the men's 4-kilometre team pursuit cycling race in a Games record 4 minutes, 22.901 seconds. Kazakhstan was second in 4:23.885.

China swept the women's sprint race medals, while Japan's Toshinobu Saito won gold in the men's.

Wang Yifu won the men's air pistol shooting gold and led China to the team title. His individual score was an Asian record 688.3.

Cho Eun-young did the same for South Korea in the women's standard rifle prone shooting event.

Japan won the women's and South Korea the men's in doubles competition in softball tennis, an Asian variation of standard tennis.

The biggest upset was in badminton where Indonesian superstar Susi Susanti broke down weeping when she was defeated by an unfancied Japanese in the semifinals of the women's singles.

Japan's Hisako Mizui's upset 11-4, 11-5 victory cost Susanti, the reigning Olympic, world and All-England champion, a chance to add the only title of significance left for her.

"This was the only big title I have not won and I let it slip," Susanti said, weeping in dismay.

In table tennis, China's Wang Tao scuttled the chance of a golden double for sentimental favourites by defeating veteran South Korean Yoo Nam-Kyu in the men's singles.

On Thursday, Chire Koyama came back from a controversial retirement and a move from China to Japan to win gold for her adopted country in an emotion-charged women's singles final.



THE 12th ASIAN GAMES HIROSHIMA 1994

51.17 seconds, and Han Qing took the hurdles gold in 54.74, also a record.

Kazakhstan had two winners in men's field events — Igor Potapovich in the pole vault, with a Games record 5.65 metres, and Oleg Sakirkin in the triple jump, with a leap of 17.21 metres.

Kazakhstan's Grigory Egorov, the Olympic silver medalist in the pole vault, had to settle for second here too with 5.50.

In the battle for leading all-around athlete, Uzbekistan's Ramil Ganiev led China's Cai Min 4,242 points to 4,051 after five of the decathlon's 10 events.

China also took the men's shot put and discus. Liu Hao sent the shot a Games record 19.26 metres and Zhang Cunbiao hurled the discus 58.78 metres.

Qatar's 100 metres champion Talal Mansoor al-Rahim and compatriot Ibrahim Ismail Mufthah, winner of the 400 metres title, bid to add the 200 metres to Qatar's tally.

In heats for Saturday's final Mufthah, who took the 400 metres gold on Tuesday in 45.28



Liu Xiaomei (L) of China beats off a challenge from Wang Hui-Chen (R) of Chinese Taipei and Kitada Toshie (R) of Japan to win the women's 100m final at the Asian Games yesterday. Liu clocked 11.27 seconds, a new Games' record. — AFP photo

Chinese women's discus champ tests positive

Officials promise clean-up

HIROSHIMA, Oct 14: Chi-na's Olympic Committee chief promised a clampdown on drug cheats Friday after confirming that the national women's discus champion had failed a drug test, reports AFP.

Qiu Qiaoping, who recorded the world's fourth-best discus throw in Hiroshima in June, failed a test for steroids five days before the Asian Games. Wei Jizhong, secretary general of the Chinese Olympic Committee, told AFP.

The 22-year-old discus thrower was one of 17 athletes tested in Beijing on September 28. Ma Junren's world record-breaking runners were also asked to give samples.

Wei said the sports authorities decided to drop Qiu even though the result of her "B" sample analysis was not known. The 92kg (202 pounds) athlete threw 66.08m in Hiroshima at an earlier meeting and was favourite for the Asian Games gold medal.

Wei declared that the central sports administration in Beijing faced an enormous task trying to stamp out drug use by unscrupulous coaches in the provinces.

"China is a big country. It's difficult to control everything happening in far-flung parts of the country," he said.

"But we are prepared to embark on a campaign to inform and educate people about drugs and to expose anybody

using drugs in order to clear China's name," he said.

"Some parts of the media will use this case to accuse China of using drugs systematically. We are upset but this is an individual case and she bears the responsibility.

"When athletes from Great Britain and the United States test positive the country is not blamed."

"He dismissed the argument that in a closed society like China drugs could only be obtained through official channels. "You can get drugs just as easily as anywhere in the world," he said.

He promised that any coach or doctor found guilty of supplying Qiu with drugs would be liable to the same sanctions, as the International Olympic Committee called for in Paris in August.

"Any officials will be punished," he said.

The British Athletics Federation is now embroiled in an embarrassing legal conflict with Dianné Modahl after sending the 800m runner home from the Commonwealth Games in Canada in August before her "B" sample had been tested.

"After the 'B' sample result we will have an investigation and decide what action to take. We may impose heavier sanctions than those imposed by the IAAF."

The International Amateur Athletic Federation suspends athletes who test positive for steroids for four years. "A heav-

ier suspension would be tantamount to a life ban," an IAAF official said.

IAAF president Primo Nebiolo said from Copenhagen: "You cannot blacken China's name because one athlete tests positive."

"There might be a problem but I'm confident the Chinese Federation can deal with this."

He said the recent swoop on Chinese athletes did not mean the IAAF had singled out China.

"We conduct random tests throughout the world and China's record is in line with other federation members."

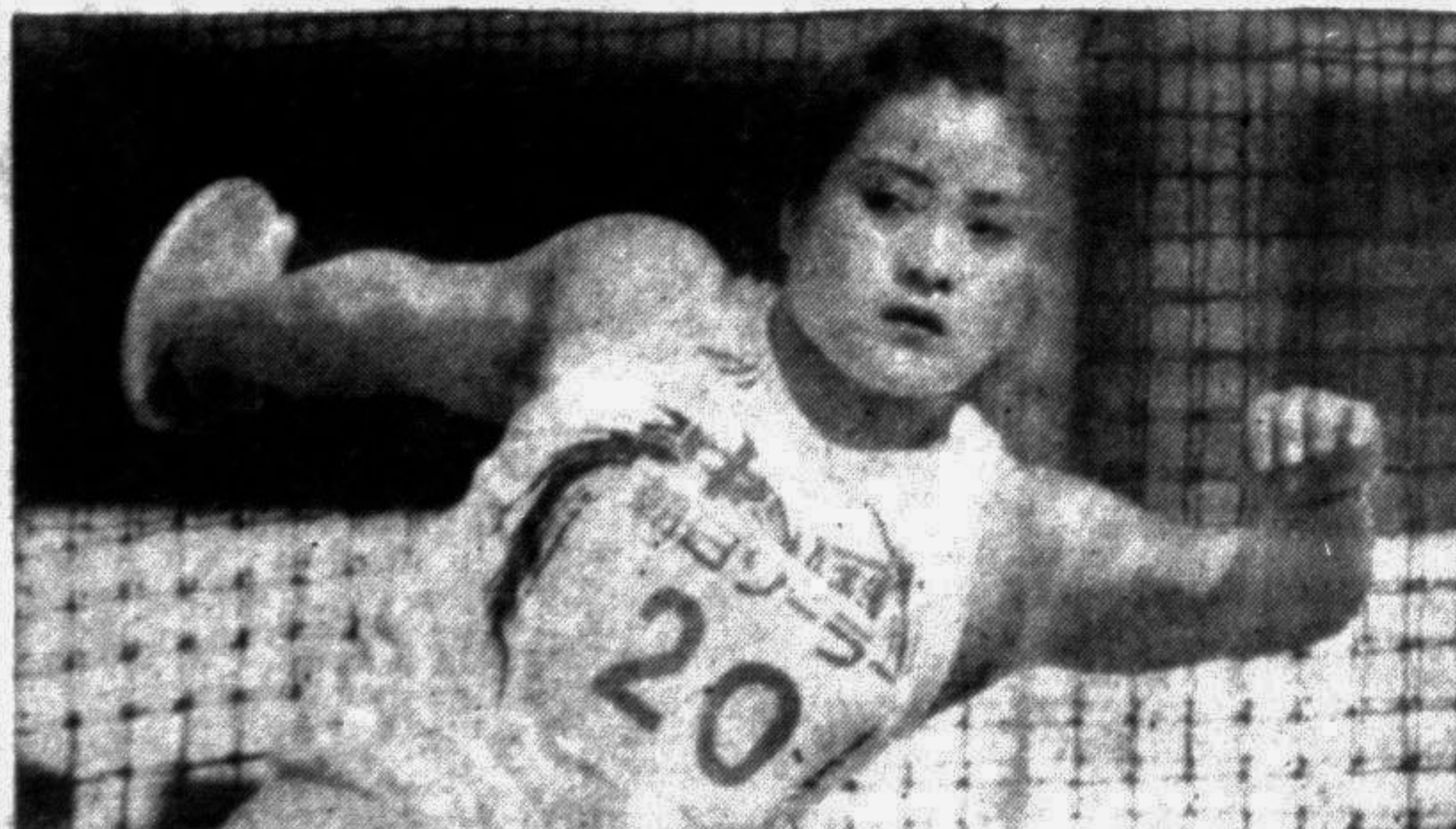
China's recent string of world record performances in athletics and swimming set off new speculation that drugs was behind the success.

Eighteen western coaches at the World Swimming Championships in Rome called on the swimming federation FINA to implement more frequent random tests after China won 12 of 16 women's events.

And last month Swimming World, a leading authority on the sport, said it would no longer consider Chinese competitors for its swimmer-of-the-year award.

China's swimmers were tested twice during these Games where they won every women's race and half the men's events.

Swimming head coach Chen Yunpeng said they accepted the tests as the price to pay for success.



Min Chunfeng of China prepares to hurl the discus during the women's final at the Asian Games yesterday. Min took the gold with a throw of 62.52 metres. — AFP photo

No German Olympic bid till 2006

FRANKFURT, Oct 14: Still reeling from Berlin's much-criticized effort to secure the 2000 Summer Olympics, the country's top Olympic official ruled out on Thursday a German candidacy for the next Summer Games, reports AP.

The National Olympic Committee issued a report pinning Berlin's failure on too little support from the country's sports organisations and inadequate German representation on international bodies.

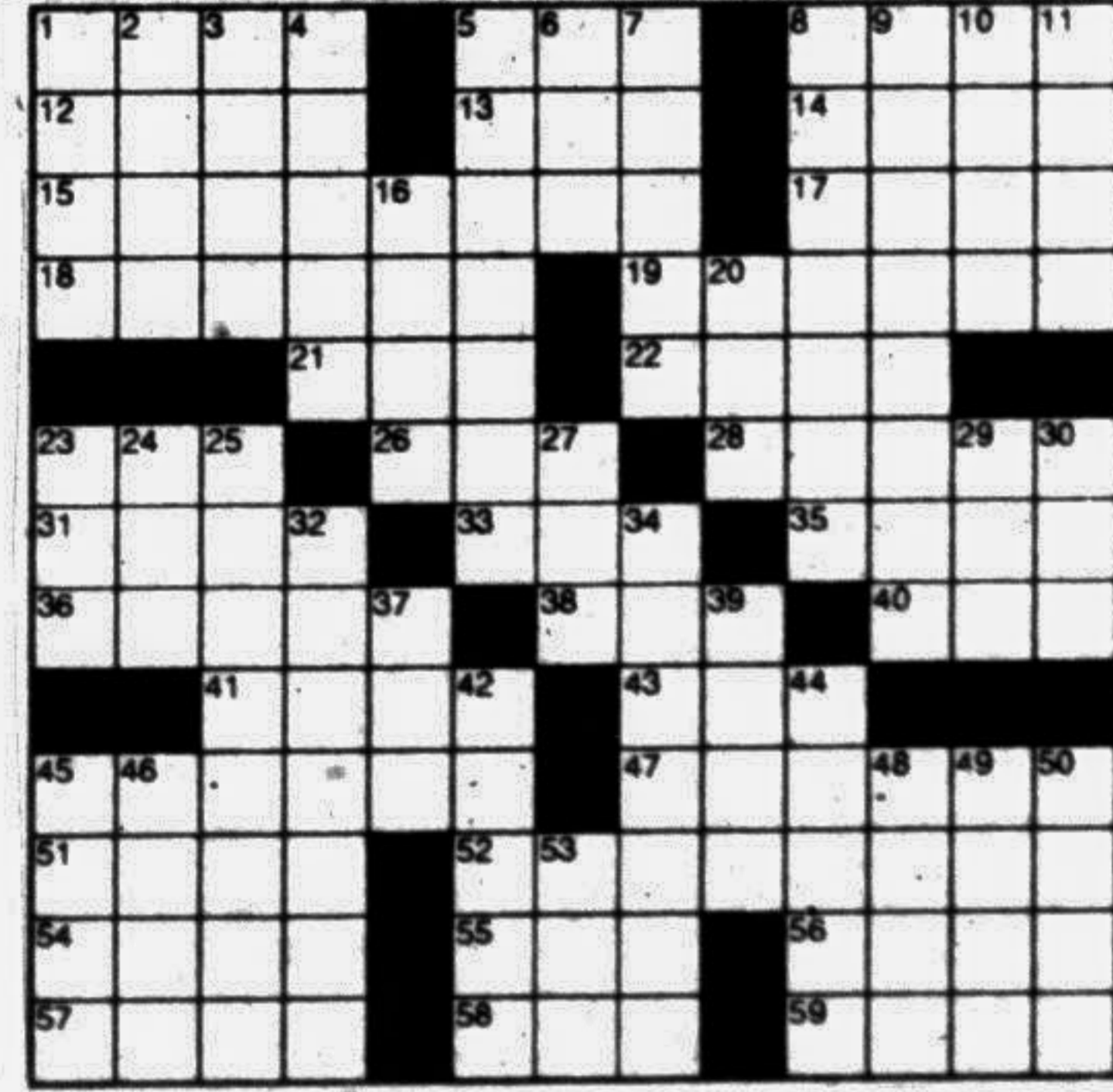
There was also underwhelming support from Berliners, some of whom mounted an anti-Olympic campaign.

Committee president Walther Troeger said a bid for the 2004 Summer Games was out of the question. But he would not rule out trying to win the Winter Games that will be held two years later, with a possible bid by the Bavarian resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Sydney, Australia was awarded the 2000 Summer Games.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 40 Drunkard 59 Three Lives 16 Salver 20 Technician's area 23 31 1/2 gal. 24 In the style of 25 Grouch 27 Wield a needle 29 Brazilian resort 30 Suitable 32 Type of signal light 34 Flier 37 Honest politician 39 Pulsate 42 Plus 44 Phonograph needles 45 Part of a Batman costume 46 Mayberry lad 48 Object of worship 49 Chess turn 50 On in years 53 Great wonder



CRYPTOQUIP HBPWV GPZCLHCVL CW UGZ QBIAUGPA ZCIFVPCZ: 'PW CGJJGPA JQVBZV!' Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WORKER IN LOCAL CHEWING GUM FACTORY TO HIS GIRLFRIEND: 'I'M STUCK ON YOU.' Today's Cryptoquip clue: P equals N The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.