

England hold upper hand

TOOWOOMBA, Australia, Dec 19: Queensland youngsters Jimmy Maher and Andrew Symonds both completed first innings centuries Monday, but England are in a strong position after the third day of their four-day cricket match against the state team at Heritage Park, reports AP.

Captain Ian Healy declared Queensland's innings at 392-4, still 115 runs short of England's 507-6 declared, in the hope of forcing an outright result.

England then powered to 188-3 in their second innings, a lead of 303 runs with one day of play remaining.

Healy called a halt after Maher took a single to bring up his second first-class century after a 205-run partnership with Symonds.

Symonds' maiden first-class century, 108 not out, came after just three games for his state, while Maher's 100 followed the 122 he made against Western Australia in Brisbane last summer.

England lost opener Graham Gooch for seven and were 37-1 at tea before accelerating their scoring rate in the final session.

Captain Mike Atherton contributed 49 before falling to Symonds, while Graeme Hick made 46.

At stumps, the resurgent John Crawley was not out 45 with Steve Rhodes unbeaten on 26.

The match is England's final preparation for the second Test against Australia, which begins on Saturday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

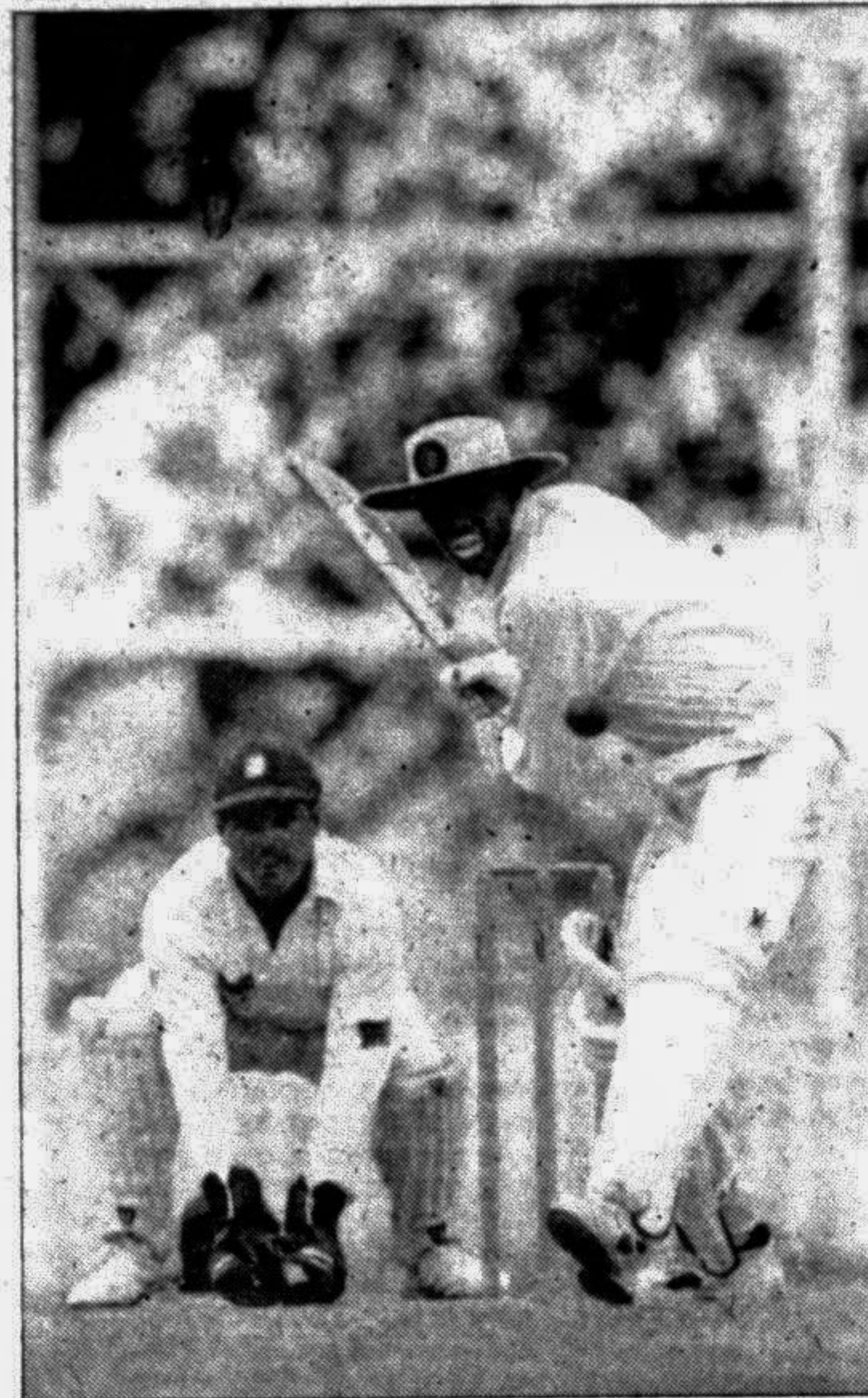
Total: (for four wickets declared) 392				
Fall of wickets: 11, 66, 116, 187-				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Malcolm	20	1	97	2
Fraser	23	1	89	0
Tufnell	28	2	108	2
Udal	6	0	23	0
Hick	6	0	23	0

Batting time: 370 minutes. Overs: 94.

ENGLAND: 2nd Innings				
Coach Ibv Tazelaar 7				
Atherton c Rowell b Symonds 49				
Overs: 43				

Hick c Law b McDermott 46				
Crawley not out 45				
Rhodes not out 26				
Extras 15				
Total: (for three wickets) 188				
Fall of wickets: 19, 93, 153.				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
McDermott	12	5	33	1
Tazelaar	12	2	37	1
Rowell	6	2	20	0
Kasprzowicz	9	1	57	0
Symonds	4	0	32	1

Batting time: 179 minutes. Overs: 43.



Queensland Bulls batsman Andrew Symonds plays a cover drive shot against England in their four-day match at the Heritage Oval in Toowoomba yesterday. Symonds went on to make 108 not out in his highest score in a first-class match. — AFP photo

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps Monday, third day of the four-day cricket match between England and the Queensland state team at Heritage Park:

ENGLAND: 1st Innings 507-declared

QUEENSLAND: 1st Innings				
Harsby c Rhodes b Malcolm	15			
Hayden c Rhodes b Malcolm	8			
Law c Fraser b Udal	47			
Malcolm	91			
Maher not out	100			
Symonds not out	108			
Extras	23			

Samaranch, a traditionist

ATLANTA, Dec 19: The president of the International Olympic Committee said Saturday he favours keeping the men's marathon at its traditional time for the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, reports AP.

"I think the marathon must be the last sports event before the closing ceremony," IOC chief Juan Antonio Samaranch said at a news conference wrapping up a series of Olympic meetings in Atlanta.

Samaranch's position contradicts the stance of his own IOC medical commission, which has suggested moving the men's marathon to the morning to avoid the extreme heat and humidity of the late afternoon.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation has opposed any change, saying the weather conditions will be no worse than they were in Barcelona in 1992.

Traditionally, the men's marathon ends in the Olympic stadium just before the start of the closing ceremony.

IAAF officials will be in Atlanta next month to discuss the issue with the local organising committee. Athletics is the only sport whose competition schedule has not been finalised.

On another issue, Samaranch did not rule out the possibility of seeking another term as IOC president when his mandate expires in 1997. Previously, he had indicated this would definitely be his last term.

"It's too early to answer this question, but in principle the president must respect the

rules regarding the age limit," the 74-year-old Samaranch said.

Since he will be over the age limit of 75 in 1977, the Olympic Charter would need to be changed to allow for Samaranch to run again.

Samaranch has been IOC president since 1980. He was re-elected by acclamation in September 1993 to a third term.

Earlier Reuter adds: American Vice-President Al Gore joined the Olympic anti-doping crusade on Saturday when he called for stricter penalties against anyone implicated in giving drugs to athletes.

He told International Olympic Committee (IOC) leaders that the world was aware of the penalties the IOC imposed on athletes caught using performance-enhancing drugs.

"It may also be time to apply the same strict penalties, if not more serious penalties, to coaches, trainers and administrators who know of and condone drug use."

"We can't have fair competition when we let go unpunished the conspirators of foul play," he said in a speech to the IOC executive board and 1,000 Olympic delegates from 196 nations.

On the final day of a four-day IOC executive board meeting, Gore visited Atlanta to pledge the Clinton administration's support for the 1996 Centenary Olympics.

Although he did not refer specifically to China, his call for wider penalties for drug use came amid widespread suspicion that coaches may have

been involved in the doping of 11 Chinese athletes who were unmasked at the Asian Games in October.

"Young people do not come upon these performance-enhancing drugs in a personal vacuum."

"Everyone around a using athlete — the teammates, the trainers and the coaches — are affected."

"And if some cases, regrettably, it is coaches and trainers who instigate drug use," he said.

Gore said increased measures to stamp out doping should also include greater education to ensure that athletes, coaches, trainers and sports administrators understood the health risks.

"Winning is not important enough to threaten the health of our athletes, whether it is our children playing high school soccer or our Olympians training for the gold medal," he added.

He said sophisticated performance-enhancing drugs had become widely available since evidence of drug use had first become apparent at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

In a wide ranging speech which drew a standing ovation from Olympic delegates, Gore also stressed he need for greater equality among men and women at all levels in sport.

He paid particular tribute to an outstanding woman athlete, Wilma Rudolph, the US sprinter who overcame childhood polio to win three gold medals at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

Rudolph died of brain cancer last month at the age of 54.

Radiant Usha

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Usha Kira Chakra made light work of lowly Bangladesh Sporting Club while Wari Club struggled to beat Bachelors Sporting Club in the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the second match of the day, inside forward Kamal scored three goals as Usha walked away with a thumping 6-0 victory.

The winners led the first half 3-0. Kamal apart, Mohammed Sadeq struck twice and Kismat once to fire Usha to their second successive win.

In the first match of the day, Wari Club who took the lead in the very second minute of the proceedings through Reza went on to defend the slender lead until the final whistle for a squeaky win.

Rutherford, Ranatunga fined

EAST LONDON, South Africa, Dec 19: Match referee Peter Burge of Australia fined captains Ken Rutherford of New Zealand and Arjuna Ranatunga of Sri Lanka for misconduct after their one-day match on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Burge fined Rutherford 50 per cent of his match fee under the International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct for attempting to intimidate the umpire and Ranatunga 25 per cent of his fee for showing dissent at his dismissal.

In Rutherford's case, Sri Lankan batsman Hashan Tillekeratne had played forward defensively and then had hit the ball a second time to prevent it from bouncing on to his wicket.

"Rutherford breached ICC code of conduct Clause Four in that he attempted to intimidate an umpire into a favourable decision by moving towards (South African) umpire (Cecil) Hitchley with hands raised shouting 'That's out' Burge said in a statement.

Rutherford told Reuters: "I got it wrong... I suggested to the umpires that it might be a case of hitting the ball twice or of obstructing the field."

"He said it wasn't. I realised that I was completely wrong, but a bit of gamesmanship here and there isn't unwarranted."

Ranatunga, "Showed obvious dissent to his being given out caught behind by indicating the ball came off his pad, shaking his head and commenting to the umpires that he did not hit it," Burge said.

Sri Lanka had a five-wicket win over New Zealand, keeping alive their Mandela Trophy hopes.

Replying to New Zealand's 255 for four, Sri Lanka passed their total with 17 balls to spare with Hashan Tillekeratne unbeaten on 68 and Ruwan Kalpage on 43.

Sri Lanka now face South Africa in Port Elizabeth on Wednesday in a match which will decide Pakistan's opponents in the best of three match final.

Unchanged Aussies

SYDNEY, Dec 19: Australia today kept faith with the players who seized a one-nil lead in the Ashes series against England by naming an unchanged squad for this week's second Test in Melbourne, reports Reuter.

Mark Taylor's side beat the tourists by 184 runs in Brisbane and will be favourites to extend their lead when the second Test begins at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on December 24.

All-rounder Steve Waugh was left out of Australia's limited-overs side for the opening fixtures in the World Series tournament because of a shoulder injury which stopped him bowling. But he keeps his place in the 12-man Test squad.

Waugh played as a specialist batsman during the first Test. Although he did not bowl for New South Wales during their current Sheffield Shield match against South Australia, he has had net practice and is expected to be fully fit for Melbourne.

TEAM

AUSTRALIA (from): Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Michael Bevan, Ian Healy, Shane Warne, Craig McDermott, Tim May, Glenn McGrath, Damien Fleming.

Orient Bread kabaddi

Holdings Mirpur Juba Sangha moved to the final of the Orient Bread kabaddi league beating Baragoali Samaj Kalyan Juba Sangha 17-12 in the first semifinal at the kabaddi court yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 9-7.

In the other semifinal, Imarat Nirman Samik Union edged past Sonali Bank Club 5-3 at the same venue after leading the first session 2-1.

It's been a veritable medley

PARIS, Dec 19: The sporting honours for 1994 must go to Norway for staging not only the most stirring Olympic Games but also the fairest, reports AFP.

When 300,000 people can cheer an Italian team which has just beaten the home side by fourth-tenths of a second in the most popular event in Norway — the men's cross-country skiing relay — then you know this country loves sport.

How many of the participants in 1994 could really say they were in it for anything but the money.

Ayrton Senna certainly demanded to be rewarded but he also raced for glory. Unfortunately, he drove into a brick wall at 200 mph on May 1st — labour day — in San Marino.

Italian justice, and, perhaps, commercial interests have contrived to ensure the exact causes of his fatal crash are still not known.

Fortunately, Michael Schumacher, the youngest world champion, looks as if he possesses some of Senna's daring bravado to excite motor racing fans for the next few years.

Matt Busby, the former Manchester United manager who died this year, was consumed by style and fair-play. Brazil used to epitomise outrageous skill but Carlos Alberto Pereira, decided hard work rather than flair was the only way to win another World Cup.

Carlos Dunga's gritty midfield play typified this new Brazilian blend but without Romario, one of the game's mavericks, they would not have taken the Cup back to Rio.

Seven of the eight quarter-finalists in a surprisingly successful United States venture into World Cup football were from Europe but for all their tactical organisation the best sides relied on outstanding individuals to make the difference.

Bulgaria had Hristo Stoichkov, Romania had Gheorghe Hagi, Sweden had Tomas Broström and Italy had Roberto Baggio. Unfortunately for Baggio, after dragging Italy to the final he fluffed his lines.

His was the last kick of the 1994 World Cup final in Pasadena, sending the ball high over the cross-bar from a penalty.

And yet the side that played the most vibrant football, Argentina, sloped home in disgrace after Diego Maradona failed a test for the drug which had helped him regain his fitness.

If money is ruining sport, then there was no better example than in Colombia where the national side was apparently under mafia threat. Right-back Andres Escobar paid the ultimate price after scoring an own-goal. He was murdered by a

gambler's hired assassin when he arrived home.

If it's true that when you lose, you die a little — then Andre Agassi can certainly claim to have been reborn.

A year of setbacks was forgotten when he won the US Open.

It's not always easy to sympathise with Agassi but, like John McEnroe, the game would be a lot poorer without him.

Pete Sampras is both a superb player and chivalrous ...

A lot is expected of fourteen-year-old Martina Hingis and Venus Williams, who just miss the age-limit brought in by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) to safeguard teenagers.

Let's hope they don't go the same way as another teenage star Jennifer Capriati, another player who joined the tour as a fourteen-year-old. She spent the week in bed after losing in the first round at the 1993 US Open and didn't play again until late in 1994.

1993, although coach Ma Junren's star pupil Wang Junxia looks an odds-on bet for a 10,000m gold medal at the 1995 World Championships in Gothenburg.

World champion Noureddine Morceli of Algeria was unbeaten at the 1,500m and mile in 1994 and also set a stunning world record for 3,000m.

Ethiopia has won 13 Olympic medals but had not broken a world athletics record until Haile Gebrselassie ran a 12min 56.92sec 5,000m in Holland in June.

World cross-country champion William Sigei of Kenya broke the 10,000m world record with 26.52.23 in Oslo in July.

Linford Christie of Britain and Merlene Ottey of Jamaica, both 34, believe they can win more honours at Gothenburg.

Leroy Burrell beat Lewis' world 100m record by running 9.85sec in Lausanne in July but could not get the better of Christie who also won his third successive European and Commonwealth Games titles.

Ottey's 10.78 100m in Paris in September equalled her four-year-old personal best and was only one hundredth of second slower than world leader Irina Privalova of Russia.

The graceful, easy-going Ottey reminds one of Wilma Rudolph who died of cancer this year at 54. Rudolph, told as a child she would never walk after being ill with polio, won three gold medals and equalled two world records in the 1960 Olympics in Rome.

Alexander Popov's 100m freestyle time of 48.21sec which beat Matt Biondi's four-year-old mark was one of 14 world swimming records broken in 1994.

However, the biggest development in swimming was rise and apparent fall of China. Their women swimmers won 12 out of 16 events in the World Championships in Rome but seven of their competitors, including two Rome gold medalists, were later banned after failing drugs tests in the Asian Games in Japan.

Multi-millionaire owners and players in North American baseball and ice hockey shut down their sports in 1994, unable to agree on how to divide profits from a three-billion-dollar industry.

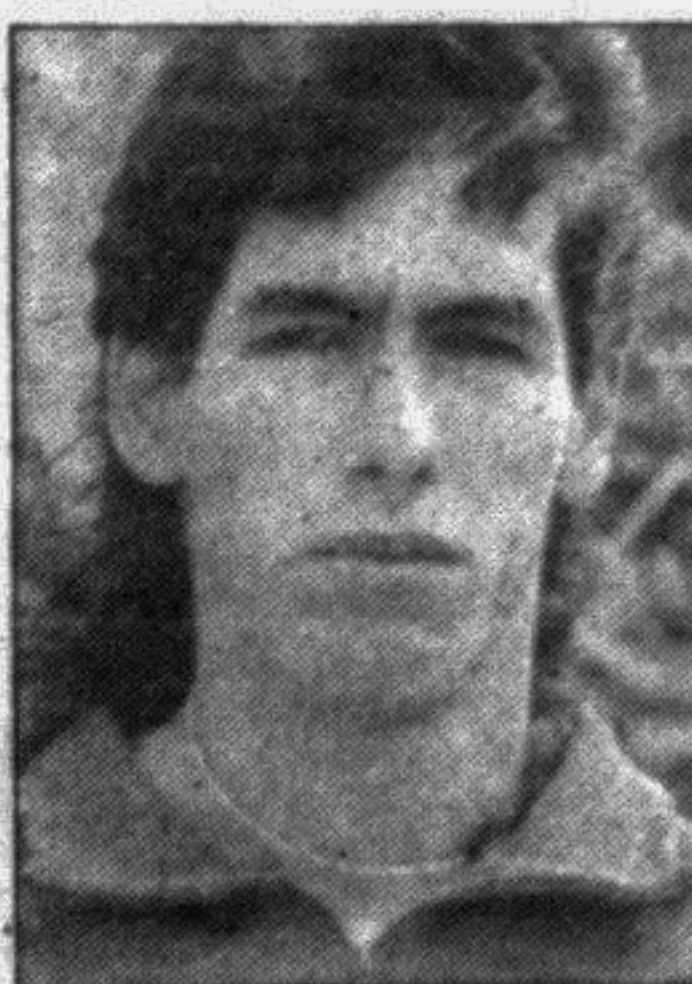
George Foreman made a farce of professional boxing when he knocked out Michael Moorer in Las Vegas in November to become the oldest heavyweight champion in history at 45. Moorer had never hidden the fact he was only interested in money.

Foreman lost the championship 20 years ago to Muhammad Ali who nowadays cannot cross the road unaided.

Boxing badly needs Mike Tyson to restore respectability. He is due out of prison in May after serving three years of a six-year sentence for rape.

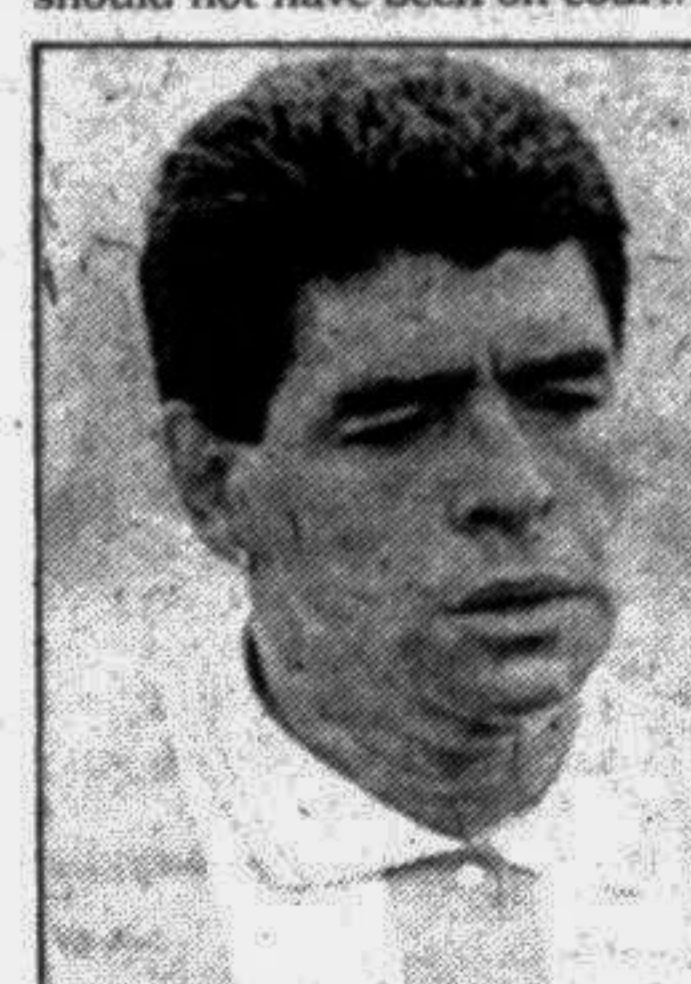


AYRTON SENNA



ANDRES ESCOBAR

but a little dull. He won the Australian Open and Wimbledon but lost to Peru's Jaime Yzaga at Flushing Meadow when by all rights he should not have been on court.



DIEGO MARADONA

He returned from injury to win the ATP Championship finals and finished the year as world number one — the first man since Ivan Lendl in 1987 to retain the ranking through 12 months.

Martina Navratilova's decision to go after more than 20 years on the women's tour has left the game, still waiting for Monica Seles to come back after being stabbed by a spectator in 1993, without a major personality.

Steffi Graf's bad back has left her exposed. Arantxa Sanchez, in Paris and New York, and Conchita Martinez at Wimbledon, took the major honours for Spain but the Spanish players do not draw crowds.



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA

charges and underwent a rehabilitation course before staging a comeback.

Carl Lewis, who has won eight Olympic and eight World Championship athletic gold medals, is missing from the rankings for the 100 metres and 200 metres for the first time in 10 years.

Most of the American stars will be 30 or over by the time the Atlanta Olympics come up, in 18 months which may mean even more success for Africa.

Random dope testing in China has caught no big fish but it has been offered as an explanation for the slow-down in China's athletic progress.

China has only nine women in the distance rankings this year as opposed to their 47 in

A year of improbables, impossibles

PARIS, Dec 19: 1994 was the year when the unthinkable became the norm in professional boxing, writes AFP.

George Foreman, a 45-year-old grandfather, demolished the sport's already dubious credibility with a single, lazy-looking right when he knocked out unbeaten Michael Moorer to reclaim the world heavyweight title he had lost of Muhammad Ali in Zaire two decades earlier.

Mexico's WBC light-welterweight legend Julio Cesar Chavez was knocked down for the first time in a 90-fight career and boxing's greatest record was blemished when he was outpointed by a 15-1 American outsider.

Azumah Nelson, one of Africa's greatest boxers, and a world champion since 1984, finally came to the end of the road when he lost his WBC super-featherweight crown.

And stylish Jamaican Mike McCallum, former world light-middleweight and middleweight king, accomplished a historic feat at the ripe age of 37 when he won the WBC light-heavyweight title by unanimously outpointing Australian Jeff Harding.

Foreman, who weighed in at 17 stone 12lbs — two stones heavier than his 26-year-old opponent and looking more like a sumo wrestler than a heavyweight title contender — had taken a beating for nine and a half rounds at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas in November when he suddenly poked out the right hand.

Time seem suspended in the air as Moorer, who had taken his WBA and IBF titles six months earlier by outpointing the courageous Evander Holyfield, crashed to the Canvas. He raised his head briefly but not his body, and Joe Cortez' count was completed with less than one minute of the round remaining.

The 6ft 4in Texas preacher, his face swollen and bruised from the non-stop jarring jabs of a young and fast-moving op-

ponent, slumped to his knees and said a prayer while the crowd roared and squealed with delight.

It was Foreman's 73rd win against just four defeats in a career launched in 1969.

"On this planet we now know that the athletes of the world are aged between 45 and 55," said Foreman after his sensational win.

Moorer was not only heavy-



GEORGE FOREMAN

weight champion caught by a single, surprise blow.

Britain's WBC champion Lennox Lewis lost his title at Wembley in September when he was stopped in the second round after being caught by an explosive right by underdog Oliver McCall of the United States.

McCall's win may yet have set the stage for an over-45s title unifier. For in February the American is due to face compatriot Lary Holmes another former world heavyweight champion.

In a division where anything can happen, a shock win for Holmes could set up what would be an unacceptable showdown between two ageing boxers for the sport's greatest prize.

Even Foreman, who has staged comebacks after two retirements — the first for ten years and the second for 17 months — didn't take the thought too seriously.

If I ever get in the ring with Larry Holmes, it would smell so bad from rheumatism

oil, nobody would want to watch," he quipped.

Foreman probably didn't care since whether he climbs back in the ring or not, he is assured of a 15 million dollar income in the new year from a fast-food sponsorship deal.

Quite what Mike Tyson thought of it all in his prison cell, where he is completing a sentence for rape, can be left to the imagination. But there is



JULIO CHAVEZ

little doubt that many hope that his return to the ring when he is released will bring some order to the category.

Another former champion making headlines was Riddick Bowe. Bowe, out in the cold since losing his WBA and IBF belts, vented frustration by beating fellow-American Larry Donald...twice.

He clearly outpointed Donald over twelve rounds in Las Vegas a few days after punching out and splitting his opponent's lip at a press conference — an attack which prompted Donald to take legal action.

Bowe's next opponent in the new year is scheduled to be Herbie Hide. Hide became Britain's second holder of a heavyweight title when he stopped and retired WBO champion Michael Bennit at Millwall after a seventh round knock-out.

Bennit, who had taken his crown by stopping Tommy Morrison the previous October, looked overweight and sloppy, and his sudden

collapse after his defeat led to his being rushed to hospital where brain damage was diagnosed.

The fact that he had also collapsed after a sparring session in the build-up to the fight raised some worrying questions about the efficiency of medical precautions taken before bouts.

Everything comes to an end. But nobody expected Chavez to lose his unbeaten record to Frankie Randall in January.

The Mexican, who had just had a penalty point deducted for a low blow, was suddenly caught by a sharp right cross in the eleventh round which sent him crashing to the canvas.

Although he managed to beat the count, his strength was gone, and he lost a split decision.

In the return three months later Chavez again failed to dominate the efficient Randall — but he got his title back when he won a technical decision in the eighth round after being badly cut over his right eye by a head butt.

Despite regaining his title, Chavez was by now being written off. But he made the experts eat their words with a superb demolition job on the dangerous Meldrick Taylor by stopping the American in the eighth round.