



Players and officials of the Mariner Youngs Club who were declared unbeaten Partex First Division basketball champions with a match to spare on Thursday.

Sino natants return to pool

BEIJING, May 26: China's swimming squad will compete on the international stage next week — the first time since being plunged into an international controversy over drug taking at last year's Asian Games, reports AFP.



South African President Nelson Mandela (C) alongwith Sports Minister Steve Tshewete, president of the South African Rugby Union Louis Lyt, Rugby World Cup chairman Sir Ewart Bell and French Rugby Federation president Bernard Lapasse inaugurating the Rugby World Cup at Newlands Stadium in Cape Town on May 25.

Incentive for Russian athletes

MOSCOW, May 26: Russian athletes who win gold medals at next year's Summer Olympics in Atlanta could pocket up to 100,000 dollars such, sources at the Russian Olympic Committee said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Motorola to sponsor Atlanta Games

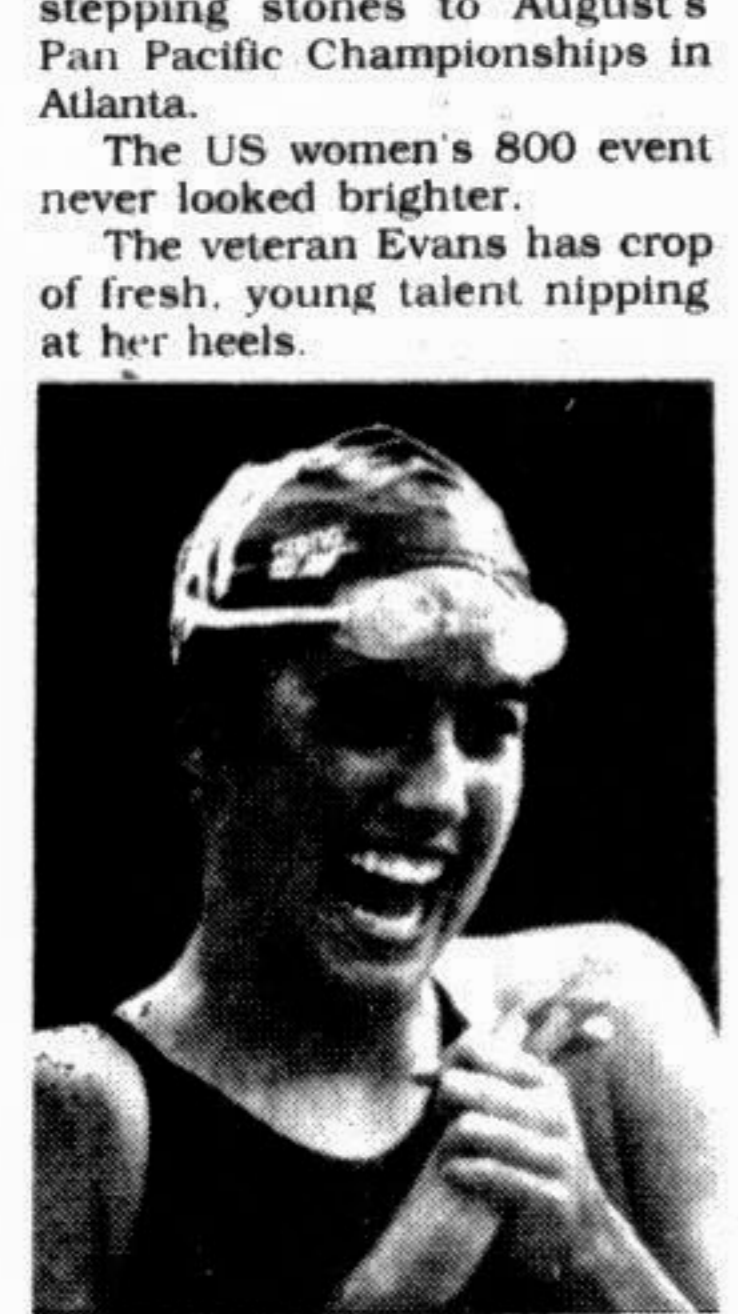
ATLANTA, May 26: After months of negotiations, Motorola Inc. said Thursday it has finalised a deal to sponsor the Atlanta Olympics, reports AP.

Sydney Games in shambles

SYDNEY, May 26: Preparations for the Sydney Olympics in the year 2000 are a "financial mess", "The current state of play financially is that no significant contract to build venues or accommodation has been let since the bid was won in 1993," he said.

Evans' unbeatable streak

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida, May 26: American Janet Evans, undefeated in the 800-metre freestyle since 1986, won the event at the Alamo Challenge on Thursday, reports Reuter.



JANET EVANS Americans Bennett, Cristina Teuscher, Tobie Smith and Trina Jackson are just the first, wave of her apperants.

"I like owning the 800," Evans said, who last lost at the Goodwill Games in Moscow in July, 1986.

Rough ride ahead for Agassi

PARIS, May 26: The French Open starting next week offers Andre Agassi a tantalising chance to write tennis history by becoming the first male player to win Grand Slam titles on four different surfaces, reports Reuter.

His only other clay tournament this season was in Atlanta where he lost to compatriot Michael Chang in the final.

failure to do well in Grand Slam events if he is to become the first player since Ilie Nastase in 1973 to win the three big clay tournaments — the Monte Carlo and Italian Opens and Roland Garros — in the same year.

French Open minus Leconte

PARIS, May 26: Henri Leconte pulled out of the French Open here on Thursday with tendinitis of the left shoulder, organisers said, reports AFP.

Edberg has been slipping down the rankings but few would relish an early meeting with him, and Medvedev, who won the Hamburg title this year but who is ranked only 18th in the world, is a positive threat.

Friday's draw at Roland Garros pitted Agassi against Braasch, a hard-hitting German ranked 90th in the world rankings.

Agassi gets Braasch in first round

PARIS, May 26: Top-seeded Andre Agassi, looking to complete a career Grand Slam, will face Karsten Braasch of Germany in the first round of the French Open, reports AP.

Moorer challenges IBF

NEWARK, New Jersey, May 26: Former heavyweight champion Michael Moorer says the IBF rigged its rankings and refused to name him its top contender, hurting his chances to regain the title, reports AP.

ranked him No. 3, and made him No. 2 before his next fight, a May 13 victory over Melvin Foster. The WBA ranks Moorer sixth, while he is unranked by the WBC.

Schaller in quarters

BOLOGNA, Italy, May 26: Top-seeded Gilbert Schaller eliminated Mats Wilander to earn a quarterfinal berth in the Bologna ATP action. Two unseeded players, Marcelo Rios of Chile and Karim Alami of Morocco, also advanced in second-round play Thursday, reports AP.



Promoter Don King (C) holds up the arms of former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson (L) and Peter McNeeley following a press conference at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas on May 24.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle grid with a 11x11 grid of letters.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF EATING BREAKFAST IN A DELI, OLIVE OYL LOVES TO ORDER POPEYE-SEED BAGELS. Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals M