- AFP/UNB photo

NBC secures

a big deal

agreed on Monday to pay a

stunning 1.27 billion dollars

for US television rights to the

Olympic Games in Sydney in

2000 and the Winter

Olympics in Salt Lake City in

The deal, put together in

under a week as a preemp-

tive, take it or lose it propo-

sition to the International

Olympic Committee (IOC)

and the two national organis-

ing groups, shuts out Fox

Television and other US net-

works without hope of a

NBC next year will broad-

Network president Robert

cast in the United States the

1996 Summer Games from

Wright said his company

would not have paid 715 mil-

lion dollars for the Australian

events and 555 million dol-

lars for the US games sepa-

rately, but believed the two

together constituted a prof-

during 1993 bidding among

all the US networks to pay

454 million dollars for the

US rights to the 1996

By contrast, NBC agreed

itable package.

2002, reports Reuter.

counterbid.

Atlanta.

NEW YORK, Aug 8: NBC

Johnson ready to roll



books at Championships.

Johnson.

Americans in the 400 final. 44.1 (seconds) or 44 flat.

"But he's in his own class."

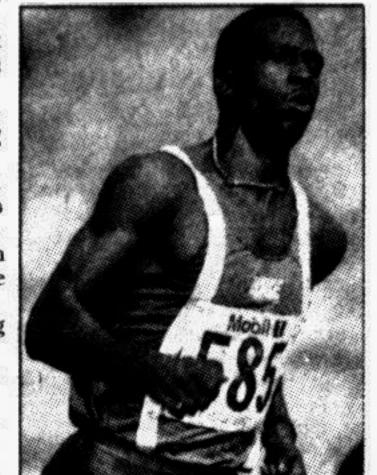
Johnson has not had any bad days recently. Not in six years.

"Michael has changed the record-holder at 43.29 and race. "I used to save some-

in the first 200 or 300 metres, it's hard to do that anymore.-Because of that, I have

you don't have time for mistakes. You can't make 'hem.'

the 1993 World Championships at Stuttgart, Germany. He already has run 43.66 this year at the US Outdoor Championships at



MICHAEL JOHNSON Sacramento, Calif, easily beat-

ing Reynolds, the runner-up at 44.42. Johnson's presence in a race is psychologically upset-

ting to some long sprinters. "Everybody worries where Michael is instead of running his own race," Hall said. "They're worrying about whether they can place second or third.

There is, however, a way to beat Johnson, Hall claims. "You've got to get him in

the first 300," Hall said. "You've got to put pressure on him. If somebody's close to Michael Johnson coming off to make a big turn, because nobody's ever been close to

"We're not going to hand him the gold medal. I don't run for place. I run for re-

Hall gave Johnson a surprisingly tough time during the US Championships passing him on the backstretch before tiring and finishing third.

Hall doesn't expect Johnson to break Reynolds' world record, because he will be trying to conserve as much energy as possible for the 200, which begins Thursday morning. But he knows there are no limitations on Johnson's potential.

"Nobody can touch him." said Hall, who came close to running into Johnson's lane during the semifinals and nearly was disqualified. "He's very confident. But you can challenge him.

"Michael's not guaranteed to win anything. He's going to slip. I'm just waiting for the day he slips."

Johnson doesn't think he'll slip Wednesday.

"I feel very confident in my training," he said, "I can run eight rounds (The total for the 200 and 400 races). The first three rounds (of the 400) went very comfortably.

"Every time I have a chance to double I will." Only one thing concerned

"All systems are go if I can

keep Darnell out of my lane, he said, jokingly.

Johnson doesn't have to worry about that. He will be in lane five, with Hall in one and Reynolds in six. "If I step out of my lane,

I'm in the infield," Hall said.

Weather O'Brien's bane eighth with 15.21 seconds.



GOTHENBURG. Aug 8: American Dan O'Brien won his third consecutive

World Championship decathlon title on Monday, then complained possible world record, reports Reuter.

"I'm happy to win but the intensity was missing on day one because of the early start and because the erratic winds threw people out," said the American who won gold with the year's best tally of 8.695 points.

O'Brien said he had felt in shape to break his world record of 8,891 points before the competition. But the windy weather on Sunday and 9.30 am start had ruined everyone's chances of a good score, he added

Mike Smith of Canada was third on 8,419.

"The key to winning was the javelin," O'Brien said. "When Eduard threw badly. I passed.

In the penultimate discipline, Hamalainen could do not better than 58.88 me tres, achieved on his final

had hampered his performance, said he believed either one of them could have

was down but it was a result. jump as (at the last World Championships) in Stuttgart

started the day as he

promised with a decisive

hurdles in 13.78 seconds to consolidate first place but he had to give second best to Hamalainen who excels at the

The Belarus athlete showed his class by overtaking O'Brien at the last hurdle to sprint clear in 13.73 sec-

Erki Nool of Estonia. third overnight, had a disastrous run. losing his rhythm at the first hurdle, and though he recovered to finish, he slipped down to

After six events American Chris Huffins was still in second place but Hamalainen had moved into a threatening third and his throw of 49.96 metres in the discuss advanced him into the silver

O'Brien increased in confidence with each event. A pole vault of 5.20 metres was just five centimetres short of his best in a decathlon and left him with a comfortable cushion for his triple tri-

medal position.



Dan O'Braen of the United States places a number one sticker on his forehead after winning the decathlon in the Athletics World Championships in Gothenburg on - AFP/UNB photo August 7

match drawn COLOMBO, Aug 8: Skipper

SA-SL Board XI

Dale Benkenstein hit an unbeaten century as the touring South African under-24 side drew their opening three-day match against a Sri Lanka Board President's XI on the final day here today, reports

Resuming from an overnight score of 321 for four, the tourists declared their first innings at 451 for five shortly after Benkenstein reached a superb century off 194 balls.

In their second innings. the local side reached 225 for four at stumps with Indika De Saram and Upul Chandana scoring unbeaten half-centuries. The board XI made 300 in their first innings. Benkenstein, who was on

47 at the end of the second day, hit 105 not out including three sixes and seven boundaries. He reached his century with a mighty six over longon off leg-spinner Suranjith Silva.

Sri Lanka Board President's XI: 300 and 225 for four (I De Saram 70 not out. U Chandana 54 not out).

South Africa under-24: 451 for five declared (G Liebenberg 123, D Benkenstein 105 not out, A Bacher 87, M Bruyns 85).

Tufnell fined

Merlene Ottey.

and no doubt about it

Reuter.

before it.

Irina Privalova.

ports Reuter.

convincingly won the wo-

men's 100 metres final at the

World Championships on

Monday and banished years of

disappointment in sprinting's

blue-ribaned event, reports

The scenes at the end of

the race were in stark con-

trast to those at the end of

with a whoop of delight. She

finished a stride ahead of

when it was Devers was de-

clared the winner in 10.81

seconds with Ottey second in

10.82 and Torrence third in

GOTHENBURG

Aug 8: Newly

crowned world

LONDON, Aug 8: England spinner Phil Tufnell was fined 250 pounds (400 dollars) and warned about his future conduct on Monday for making an obscene gesture to spectators.

Tufnell reacted to barracking after bowling two no balls in an over during Middlesex's championship match against Nottinghamshire at Lord's on Friday, reports Reuter.

He was taken off by captain Mike Gatting and umpires John Holder and Barry Leadbeater sent a report to the Test and County Cricket

Ironically, Tufnell returned the season's best figures of five for 74 as Middlesex maintained their championship challenge with an innings victory over Nottinghamshire.

Bad news for Bayern

LONDON, Aug 8: Bayern Munich could face disciplinary action for making an illegal approach to Juergen Klinsmann while he was playing for Tottenham Hotspur, reports Reuter.

World governing body FIFA told the English Football Association (FA) on Monday that the German club had infringed their regulations regarding transfers and said they had referred the matter to their disciplinary committee for further deliberation.

FIFA backing in a dispute with Spurs over the transfer fee. FIFA said they had to pay only two million dollars to the English Premier League club for World Cup striker Klinsmann.

Tottenham had protested six million pounds (9.64 mil lion dollars).

Klinsmann's decision to return to Germany after one season with the London club angered Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar, but FIFA ruled that the player was perfectly within his rights to leave Tottenham after only one year because of an "escape" clause in his two-year-con-

They revealed that Klinsmann's contract with Tottenham contained a provision that they would be willing to release him any time after the first year (June 30, 1995) on condition that they received a transfer fee of 2 million dollars.

champs

ATLANTA, Aug 8: South Africa took another small step in its quest for sporting respect Monday by playing to a scoreless tie with world champions Australia in the women's competition at the Atlanta Hockey Challenge Cup 95, reports Reuter.

In the only other match in the round-robin portion of this test event for the 1996 Olympic hockey venue, the US women's team surprised defending Olympic champions Spain, 1-0.

South African goaltender Nicky Du Toit joined her teammates in playing all round tough defence.

Du Toit saved six of the 12 shots on goal fired by the aggressive Australians, and along with second half goalie Jillian Dix, held the Aussies scoreless in six penalty corners.

Aug 8: This time The following day Devers' there was no time was changed to 10.82. controversy, no the same as for Ottev who need for a photo was crushed at not getting finish picture the gold and said so afterwards when she claimed I am American Gwen Torrence the champion, but they won't

admit it.

This time Ottev had no complaints. In a way its easier to loss

Gwen's dreams come true

by 0.9 of a second than it is to lose by a hundredth, she said. "I cannot complain that got beaten today. Although Ottey missed out

on the gold she still had the consolation of collecting a record 11th World Championship medal and her 28th in major competitions since 1979. For Torrence the victory

ended years of disappointment in major 100 finals. Although she is the Olympic 200 metres champion, she had never won a 100 title after finishing fifth in the 1988 Olympics, second in the 1991 World Championships, fourth in the 1992 Olympies and third in Stuttgart.

"I have waited for this for so long and put everything into winning this race this year," a beaming Torrence said. "The 100 is every sprinter's favourite race and everyone knows the winner is the fastest woman in the

"I just can't describe what

champion. It's okay being the 200 champion but the 100 is the glory race." Ottey, the defending 200

metres champion, listening to Torrence's comments. raised her eyebrows at that remark.

it feels like to be world

US sprinter Gwen Torrence (R) shouts out in delight after winning the women's 100 metres final at the World

Athletics Championships in Gothenburg on August 7. Irina Privalova (L) of Russia came third behind Jamaica's

All three agreed they expected to share the medals between them again.

not always friendly, rivalry between the three sprinters. Although Torrence called Ottey "the queen of the track" recently, some old animosity was stirred up again before Monday's race when Torrence accused Jamaicans of not liking Americans.

Olympic silver medalists in both 100 and 200, made some fiercely critical remarks about Torrence after the final, in which she finished last in 11.44 seconds.

wanted her to win, nobody likes her." she said. "She's a good athlete. I'll give her that. But she's got a bad attitude. Some people said good luck to her before the race, didn't speak to her. I think she's crazy.

Asked about Cuthbert. don't Americans. Period. It's not just me."

Opel keeping an open mind

tomaker Opel reserves the right to break off its cooperaion relationship with German tennis star Steffi Graf suspected of tax fraud, a General Motors official said on German radio on Monday. reports AFP.

Hans Wilhelm Gaeb GMs' vice-president for Europe, said that "We are naturally free to take a decision against Steffi". Opel is a GM sub-

But Gaeb added that to break the relationship Opel would have to be convinced that Graf, the world's top ranking woman player, knowingly took part in the fraud of which her father, Peter, has been accused. For us that would be the line that

ATP leading money-winners

1. Thomas Muster (Aus-

tria) 1,765,129 dollars 2. Andre Agassi (US) .588,241

3. Pete Sampras (US) 1.516.916

(Russia) 1,045,546 Boris Becker (Germany) 858,608

Goran Ivanisevic (Croa-

8. Wayne Ferreira (South

therlands) 660,002 Paul Haarhuis (Nether-

lands) 657,462 11. Magnus Larsson (Sweden) 652,560

many) 632,317

15. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine) 537,402

den) 523,149 17. Jonas Bjorkman (Swe-

19. Todd Woodbridge

20. Jim Courier (US) 451,472

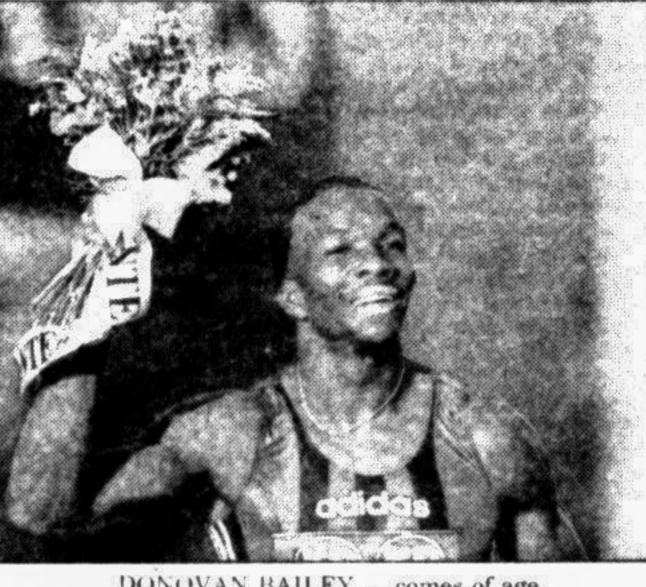
"The only thing Ben Johnson left me was the fact

am tested every week on the year.

Bailey, who owns of successful stock-broking, management and construction company with one of his four brothers, has already known success in business and the 35.000 dollars Mercedes car he won alongside the gold on Sunday will be parked next to the Porsche he already owns.

Proving that he probably has what it takes to handle any pressure he may be under as world number one, he dealt with one final question with aplomb.

What will you do with your new Mercedes. Donovan?" came the query. "Drive it, I guess," he replied with a beaming smile.



DONOVAN BAILEY ... comes of age

terest in the recent dark past of Canadian sprinting as there is in Bailey's future. The name Ben Johnson.

the disgraced former Olympic and world champion, who lost his title after champion Linford Christie testing positive at the Seoul Games and who later admitted years of steroid abuse, is "rapidly dealt with," said Bailey. "An I wasn't even running when he was around there is clearly a lot of responsibility on me as world champion but not because of what happened to Ben.

coasts MASON, USA, Aug 8:

Courier

Eleventh seed Jim Courier did not particularly enjoy his first-round victory at the 1.8 million dollars ATP Championships on Monday, reports Reuter. The former Number one.

now ranked 15th in the world, ousted childhood friend Jared Palmer 6-3, 6-2 in the hardcourt tune-up for the US Open, now just three weeks away.

tia) 828,482 756.300 Africa) 689,086

13. Jacco Eltingh (Netherlands) 605.391

16. Stefan Edberg (Swe-

den) 457.046

(Australia) 452,331

Johnson, the defending the final curve, he's not going Aug 8: Michael champion, was not tested severely during the first Johnson already has redefined three rounds of the 400 and the 400 metres. appears to have plenty left for and now is rethe final. His fastest winning ady to redefine the record time was only 44.90. His career best is 43.65 at the World

Johnson, seeking a historic double in the 200 and 400 — a feat that never has been accomplished by a male in a major international championship, chases the title in the longer sprint Wednesday night at Ullevi Stadium, reports AP.

The rest of the field is expected to be chasing

"The only way to beat Michael Johnson is on his bad days," said Darnell Hall, the world indoor champion and among the three "That means Michael running

The unflappable confident

He has not lost a 400 final since the 1989 US Indoor Championships. Since then. he has won 45 consecutive

way the race is run," said Butch Reynolds, the world the other American in the thing for when I came home. Michael goes out so hard

to train differently. "And with him in the race,

bad weather and an early start had robbed him of a

Eduard Hamalainen of Belarus finished second with 8,489 points and a resurgent

knew the danger had

throw, compared with the American's 62.90. Hamalainen, who also complained that the weather

Smith was delighted with has medal. "My long jump he said. "I just wanted to make sure I didn't make the same mistake in the long

when I fouled three times." Overnight leader O'Brien

Christie in olden days? GOTHENBURG. Aug 8: He may be 35 years old. grandfather

possible careerending injury but Britain's dethroned world 100 metres champion Linford Christie. says his running days are not yet over, reports Reuter. Christie whose injured right hamstring left him in

sixth place in Sunday's World

championships final won by

Canadian Donovan bailey, said 'I'm absolutely sure I could have won the race if I had been fit. "I'm not finished yet. I will come back and show them

that I am still the fastest

The season has a long way to go. I want to prove that was not the real Linford Christie out there. "I feel I have let a lot of

people down. I did the injury a week ago but I'm the captain and I wanted to go down with the ship, I felt I had to be out there. If I died yards from the line, then so be it."

ultra sound scan on the inbest ever start - amazing. But jury as soon as I surged and got While British team officials ready to surge again, there refused to give up all hope of was a cramp-like feeling in an appearance in Saturday's

sprint relay, they admitted

might go onto defend his

Olympic title in Atlanta next

year. Christie insisted he

would stick to his decision to

ecutive with sponsors Puma

said, "We have another three-

year agreement with Linford

it does not depend on him

running but we hope he will

be competing at the

the new champion on

Monday when Bailey told a

news conference. "I have the

greatest respect for Linford.

He was unbeaten in major

championship since 1992

clude the departure of

Christie from the scene is

still a matter for considerable

Whether the changes in-

and a medalist since 1998.

Christie won praise from

Olympics.

debate.

Michael Hill a senior ex-

retire at the end of season.

Amid speculation that he

the injury was serious.

Christie was ruled out of the 200 metres which starts on Thursday after having an Williams

my hamstring and I had to

Christie added. "It was my

early exit MANHATTAN BEACH, California, Aug 8: American teen tennis prodigy Venus Williams, playing only her second professional tournament, was picked off in the tirst round of the 430,000 dollar Acura Classic on Mon-

The 15-year-old Williams. projected to be one of the game's future stars, was downed 6-4. 6-1 by rising Swedish star Asa Carlsson.

day, reports Reuter.

"She played real well, but im just 15 and it's the beginning of my tennis career. said Williams.

But Bayern did receive

to FIFA about the transfer and also demanded a fee of up to

SA eves hold world hockey

the World Championship final in Stuttgart two years ago when there was more tension after the race than during or After watching the replay on the Ullevi Stadiums video screen, Torrence celebrated her 10.85 second victory

Jamaican Merlene Ottey who took the silver in 10.94 seconds, just two hundreths of a second in front of Russian In Stuttgart the final ended very differently with officials unable to separate Ottey from American Gail Devers. No decision was made for 90 minute and

Bailey's sweet memories and I would hate it if his career was finished because of an injury. I hope he comes back because he was the

100 metres chchampion, he has done it all ampion Donovan Bailey of Canada and had not lost a major title said on Monday there was so for years. much pressure on him before "But I always knew I had a Sunday's final he almost lost chance of winning and it all

comes down to what happens the race before it started, reon the day." The future is looking Relaxing on a boat bobbing bright for the 27-year-old. on the sunlit waters of who emigrated to Canada Gothenburg harbour on

from Jamaica when he was Monday, Bailey described the most momentous 9.97 sec-He goes for a second gold onds of his life in vivid terms. in the sprint relay this week-"I have never known such end and has automatically a huge build up or so much pressure before a race in my been installed as favourite to win the Olympic gold in life. I stumbled over the first three steps, started to panic Atlanta next year. for 10, stumbled over the But there is as much in-

well, then let out a scream after 70 metres, a scream of frustration. "As my coach would say, I ran a technically incorrect race and it was getting to me. was losing my composure but I got it back over the last 30 and when I crossed the

first three steps, started to

panic for 10 metres, ran real

now, finally, it's all over. "Everything I had worked for the last two or three years had been accomplished. went out for a meal last night, some champagne and a cigar. You bet - all the pressure was gone."

line I thought - it's all over

Bailey headed home a Canadian one-two with his teammate Bruny Surin in second place. Ato Boldon of Trinidad and Tobago was third which meant that for the first time since the World Championships began, the United States failed to win a medal in the 100 metres. While Bailey was celebrat

ing his success, defending

fell out on the track, receiv-

ing treatment to the injured

hamstring that restricted his

chances and saw him finish back in sixth place. But a suggestion that Batley's win was devalued because the Briton was unfit. was quickly dismissed by the new champion.

"I have all the respect in the world for Linford Christie There is an intense, and

Jamaican Juliet Cuthbert,

"I don't think anybody

Torrence said: "A loser never likes a winner. Jamaicans

BONN, Aug 8: German au-

Olympics in Atlanta.

sidiary.

must not be crossed.

MONTE CARLO, Aug 8 (Reuter): Leading ATP Tour prize money-winners, issued on Monday:

4. Yevgeny Kafelnikov

7. Michael Chang (US)

9. Richard Krajicek (Ne-

12. Michael Stich (Ger-

14. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 586,469

den) 516,062 18. Thomas Enqvist (Swe-