

### World U-17 soccer It's a Brazil, Ghana showdown

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, Aug 18: Brazil hammered arch-rivals Argentina 3-0 on Thursday to reach the final of the world under-17 soccer championship where they will face Ghana, who beat surprise team Oman in the other semifinal, reports Reuter.

Ghana's 3-1 win ended a heroic run by the underdogs from Oman, who had previously eliminated Nigeria and held Brazil to a draw in a first round group match.

Brazil scored all their goals in the last 20 minutes after Argentina's top player Cesar La Plagia had been sent off for a second bookable offence in the 65th minute.

The game hinged on the dismissal as Argentina had outclassed their South American neighbours for much of the first half and the early part of the second but capitulated after La Plagia's departure.

Rodrigo opened the scoring for Brazil in the 73rd minute with an individual goal, while Marcelo Rocha and Fabio Do Nascimento both scored in the last three minutes as the Argentine defence capitulated.

In the other semifinal, played in Portoviejo, Ghana did most of the first-half attacking and opened the scoring seven minutes before halftime when Joseph Ansah scored with a powerful long-range effort.

Kamara Dini increased Ghana's lead in the 54th minute but 11 minutes later Oman pulled one goal back when Mohammed Al Kathiri scored direct from a corner.

But Ghana always looked more powerful and Abu Idrisu restored their two-goal advantage in the 72nd minute, scoring from close range.

### Man United bookies' best bet

LONDON, Aug 18: Manchester United, runners-up in both the league and the FA Cup competitions last season after winning both the year before, go into Saturday's opening day of the 3-1 championship favourites with bookmakers Ladbrokes, reports AP.

The Reds were listed level with league champions Blackburn at 3-1 in midweek but Ladbrokes now rate Rovers a 7-2 shot with Newcastle at 4-1, Liverpool 9-2 and Arsenal 6-1.

Ladbrokes said that Arsenal, Newcastle and FA Cup holders Everton have attracted big bets in the pre-season period. Arsenal's odds have come down from 14-1. Newcastle's from 7-1 and Everton's from 33-1 to 20-1.

"If we translated the number of bets we have taken into a league table (standings), Arsenal will be champions come May," Ladbrokes spokesman Paul Austin said.

West Ham and promoted Bolton are the 250-1 outsiders to win the league title.

Dennis Bergkamp's 7.5 million-pound (12 million dollars) transfer from Inter Milan to Arsenal has not made him favourite to top the goalscorers' list at the end of the season. The Dutch striker is a 12-1 shot and has seven players above him.

Blackburn's England international striker Alan Shearer, who scored 34 league goals last season, nine more than anyone else, is hot favourite to be top scorer again at odds of 7-2.

Then come Manchester United's Andy Cole, 5-1, Newcastle's Les Ferdinand, 6-1, Liverpool's Stan Collymore, 7-1, Leeds' Tony Yeboah and Arsenal's Ian Wright, 8-1 and Liverpool's Robbie Fowler, 10-1.

### Kempes plans to play in Chile

SANTIAGO, Aug 18: Argentine forward Mario Alberto Kempes, 39, plans a return to professional soccer with Chilean Second Division side Fernandez Vial, reports Reuter.

"We feel this is going to be an important contribution to Chilean football. He's not just any player, he's Kempes," a club official said on Thursday.

Kempes, who has been running a soccer school since retiring two years ago, played in Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning side.

### TODAY'S FIXTURES

Lifbuoy Premier Division football league:

Abahani vs Rahmatganj MFS (6.30 Dhaka Stadium)

Lifbuoy First Division football league:

Bangladesh Boys vs Police SC (4.30 Dhaka Stadium)

Mohsin Cup Second Division basketball league:

Bakshibazar vs Rising Force (4.00)

Flame Boys Club vs Young Angels (5.15 Dhanmondi Gymnasium)



Argentina's star performer Cesar La Plagia (No 10) tries to weave past a host of Brazilian players during the semifinal of the World under-17 soccer championship in Guayaquil, Ecuador on August 17. Brazil blanked Argentina 3-0. — AFP/UNB photo

### European Nations' Cup

## England stun Olympic champs



DUBLIN, Aug 18: Germany, the Olympic champions and winners of the Atlanta tournament last week, were beaten 3-2 by England as they started their defence of their European Nations' Cup crown on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

It was England's first success over the Germans in seven matches and was even more surprising as England were thought to be out of form after twice conceding five goals to the Netherlands just over a week ago.

The Germans had far more of the play overall and threatened to over-run England in the early play. They took the lead after only seven minutes, left winger Andreas Becker smacking a reverse

stick centre which right winger Seven Meinhardt went full length to reflect into goal. England began to get their game together midway through the first half and two goals by Claum Giles, their penalty corner specialist, gave them a 2-1 lead on the interval.

Giles has been chosen by England to come onto the field just to shoot at corners and beat the German goalkeeper with two low flicks.

The lead was short-lived. Substitute Oliver Domke, brought on by Germany at the start of the second half, broke down the left to equalise after just three minutes.

Germany's Becker was handed a temporary suspension late in the second half and, while Germany were playing one short, Rob Tho-

mpson stole in on the blind side to score England's third goal in the 60th minute after excellent approach play by Russell Garcia and Jason Laslett.

In the day's other Group B match, Poland beat Switzerland 3-2, also coming from behind. Krzysztof Wibilalski cancelled out an early corner goal by Switzerland's Beni Steinemann and snatched the winner for Poland in the 55th minute.

The other goals were scored by Polish captain, Slawomir Lukasewski and Swiss captain Toni Habertur.

Poland are due to play England in their second match on Friday when Germany meet Belarus and Ireland, first day winners over Belarus, play Switzerland.

## Munton mauls Northants



LONDON, Aug 18: Pacesman Tim Munton captured five for 37 to give English county champions Warwickshire a flying start to their bid to close the gap on leaders Northamptonshire on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Munton and South African fast bowler Allan Donald, who took two key early wickets, dismissed Nottinghamshire for 166 on the first day of their four-day game at Trent Bridge.

Warwickshire, spurred by an unbeaten 62 from Wasim Khan, had reached 139 for two at the close.

The third-placed champions want to cut a 21-point deficit on Northants, who have played one game more and are not involved in the current round of fixtures.

Donald plunged Notts into trouble by dispatching openers Paul Pollard and Tim Robison cheaply and Munton, who had a spell of four for 16 in 11 overs, pressed home the early advantage.

Notts slumped to 44 for four before New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns, who lashed eight fours and a six in his 52, led a revival by adding

84 for the fifth wicket with Paul Johnson.

However, Munton dismissed both batsmen in the space of six deliveries and the rest of the innings soon folded.

### Three cheers for IAAF

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Aug 18: All 314 samples tested for drugs at the World Championships in Gothenburg were negative, the International Amateur Athletic Federation announced Friday, reports AP.

The specter of drug abuse by athletes hung over the start of the Aug. 4-13 championships when two sprinters were booted out of the event after, being positively tested at national championships.

Nigeria's Daniel Effiong likely will be banned for four years after testing positive for an anabolic steroid, methylestosterone, while Jamaica's Donovan Powell will be out for three months after a positive test for a stimulant, ephedrine.

But the fact that no more cases emerged during the championships will please the IAAF.

Former England captain Mike Gatting, leading second-placed Middlesex's bid to take over at the top, scored 136 against Kent in what turned out to be a bitter-sweet experience.

Gatting's batting partner Jason Pooley was run out for 95 as the Middlesex skipper tried to complete his century. Pooley went for his captain's 100th run but failed to beat Trevor Ward's throw by some distance.

Gatting struck 18 fours and one six during his 233-ball innings that lifted Middlesex — 16 points behind the leaders — to 362 for five at the close at Lord's.

Fourth-placed Lancashire had to take some punishment from arch-rivals Yorkshire at Old Trafford where the visitors scored 393 for six by the close.

England off-spinning all-rounder Mike Watkinson provided a measure of respite for Lancashire by snapping up three wickets in six overs after Yorkshire reached 303 for three.

Australian Michael Bevan (95), David Byas (76) and Ashley Metcalfe (55 not out) were the main contributors to Yorkshire's excellent opening day effort.

## Hooper hogs the headlines



SOUTHAMPTON, England, Aug 18: Carl Hooper thrashed 10 sixes, including one that passed through the window of a house, as West Indies played Hampshire for 561 runs in the day on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Hooper hammered 195 and opener Sherwin Campbell struck 172 to power the touring team from their overnight 135 for one to 696 for six at the close on the second day of their three-day match.

Replying to Hampshire's modest first innings of 192, the West Indians enjoyed a run feast on a perfect batting pitch in which captain Richie Richardson hit 83, wicket-keeper Courtney Browne scored an unbeaten 74 and Keith Arthurton made 59.

Campbell, who began the day on 76, went on to his best score on the tour, an innings containing one six and 30 fours, but it was Hooper who stole the spotlight.

Apart from his 10 sixes — the one that he smashed out of the ground passed through the bedroom window of a house in an adjoining road — he stroked 20 fours.

Hooper was out attempting his 11th six, caught at the wicket by Adrian Aymes off a skier.

Richardson overcame a slow start to hit four of the 15 sixes struck during the day's play before he was

spectacularly held on the boundary by West Indian-born Cardigan Connor.

Four of the bowlers conceded more than 100 runs as West Indies piled up the

highest total by any team in first-class cricket this season.

They need only another 47 to beat the highest total ever made against Hampshire — 742 by Surrey at The Oval in 1909.



CARL HOOPER ... the mercur

### Lara wants a break

LONDON, Aug 18: West Indian Test batsman Brian Lara has asked his English county side Warwickshire if he can delay his return as their overseas player, one of his business advisers, David Mannasseh, said today, reports Reuter.

Lara, currently on tour in England with the West Indies, is under contract to reappear for Warwickshire from 1996 but has now told the county champions that he would prefer to take a rest and return a year later.

"Whenever Brian plays he wants to be able to perform to the best of his ability and the fact is he's been on the road virtually non-stop for two years. He just feels he needs a break," said Mannasseh.

Warwickshire said a final decision could hinge on whether South Africa fast bowler Allan Donald was prepared to continue in the overseas spot at Edgbaston next summer.

Chief executive Dennis Amis said: "One of them will be overseas player in 1996. If Brian plays next summer, Allan will be here as a coach. If Allan carries on as a player, Brian can come back for 1997 and 1998."

Mannasseh added: "Warwickshire have been very understanding but obviously if they cannot get Allan Donald for next season the Brian will honour his contract."

### Twose, Gale in new-look Kiwi squad

WELLINGTON, Aug 18: New Zealand Cricket selectors on Friday named two new caps, seam bowler Aaron Gale and Warwickshire all-rounder Roger Twose, in the team to tour India in October this year, reports Reuter.

The team is the first named by Glenn Turner since he took over as both convener of selectors and coach.

The former Test batsman has already signalled radical changes by dropping former captain Ken Rutherford both from the captaincy and the team and replacing him with uncapped wicketkeeper Lee German.

The inclusion of the English-born Twose, 27, was widely tipped since he qualified for New Zealand selection last April after playing at first-class level here each season since 1989-90.

The inclusion of Gale, who bowls barely above medium pace, was less widely expected although he is a solid performer for his Otago province.

New Zealand will play three Tests and six one-day internationals during the tour, which begins on October 7.

The team: Lee German (captain), Chris Cairns, Martin Crowe, Simon Doull, Stephen Fleming, Aaron Gale, Mark Greatbatch, Matthew Hart, Danny Morrison, Dion Nash, Adam Parore, Dipak Patel, Shane Thomson, Roger Twose, Bryan Young.

### Ilyina strikes maiden gold

VIENNA, Aug 18: Vera Ilyina of Russia claimed the first title of the 22nd European Swimming Championships when she won the women's three-metre springboard diving final today, reports Reuter.

Yulia Pakhalina of Russia was second and Claudia Bockner of Germany third.

World highboard champion Dmytri Sautin led qualifiers into the men's three-metre springboard diving semifinal.

Sautin overhauled Italy's Davide Lorenzini with the last of his six voluntary dives, a reverse 1-1/2 somersaults with 3-1/2 twists which earned him 77.22 points, the highest mark of the round.

Sautin, who won the highboard gold and three-metre springboard silver at both the 1993 European and 1994 World Championships, amassed an aggregate 388.05 points.

Lorenzini, 1991 European bronze medalist, was second with 380.55 points and defending champion Jan Hempel of Germany was third with 375.69.

Points from the morning session, which reduced the field from 26 to 18, were being carried forward into the semifinal of five compulsory dives. Twelve divers will contest Saturday's final.

The first title of the 22nd European Championships was being decided in the women's three-metre springboard final later today before the men's springboard semifinal.

The men's and women's water polo tournaments got underway today and synchronised swimming was continuing with the duet technical programme.

## World awaits Tyson's thunder



LAS VEGAS, Aug 18: "He's back." To any fight fan, those words plastered on posters, T-shirts

and buttons all over town can only mean that Mike Tyson is out of prison and ready to fight on Saturday for the first time in four years, reports Reuter.

But that may be all anyone will learn from Tyson's scheduled 10-round bout against Peter McNeeley. Judging from McNeeley's prodigious lack of world-class talent, Tyson's biggest worry on Saturday will be to avoid hurting himself climbing into the ring in the MGM's Grand Garden.

After all, Tyson's handlers had scored the country for just the right opponent to test the affects on the former undisputed heavyweight champion of his long layoff.

cord with opponents who had amassed a spectacularly inept 206-441-21 record.

Adding to McNeeley's attraction to the Tyson handlers is McNeeley's speed. He has none. He even looks slow shadow-boxing. And he is strictly an arm puncher, eschewing any effort to get his 224 pounds (101.6 kg) into his punches.

Therefore, McNeeley, 26, seems to be the perfect opponent to start the 17-1 favoured Tyson, 29, on his quest to recapture the undisputed heavyweight championship.

Tyson has been kept virtually in seclusion, except for brief forays under very controlled conditions, to try to sell the pay-per-view cable television fight. It is being broadcast by Showtime Even Television for as much as 49.95 dollars if ordered in advance and more if ordered

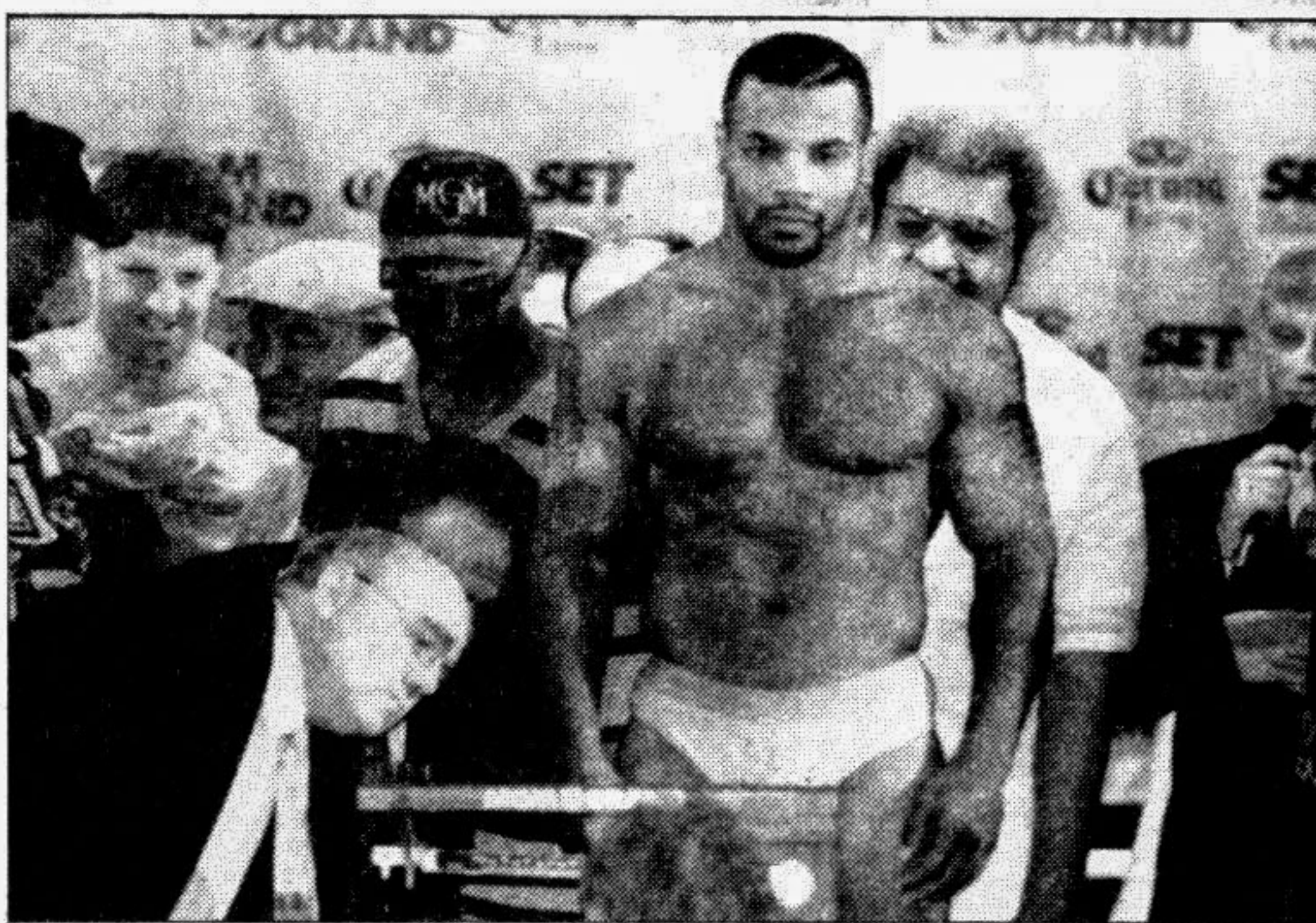
peared to be more like whistling past a cemetery than conviction.

Tyson's return is so anticipated that for the first time in the memory of many ringsiders, a world heavyweight championship fight is taking second billing to a non-title fight.

Also on the Tyson-McNeeley card is World Boxing Association (WBA) champion Bruce Seldon (32-3) defending his title against blackfoot native American Joe Hipp (30-3).

The card also includes World Boxing Champion (WBC) middleweight champion Julian Jackson putting his crown on the line against Quincy Taylor and the WBC lightweight champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez of Mexico against Lamar Murphy.

Seldon won the vacant WBA title by stopping Tony Tucker in the seventh round



Boxing promoter Don King (2nd from R) looks over the shoulder of former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson as he is weighed in at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas on Aug 17. In the background Peter McNeeley (2nd from L) smiles. — AFP/UNB photo

which included three years in prison for rape.

And it seems they found him in McNeeley, a young, light-hitting, inexperienced fighter whose unbridled aggression is expected to seduce him into rushing Tyson, whose awesome power as a counter-puncher has dispatched much more talented opponents than McNeeley.

It also did not escape those whose meals depend on an unsuccessful McNeeley that he had prepared himself to go up against one of the most feared fighters in the world by padding his 31-1

the day of the fight.

In a brief and mandatory news conference earlier this week, the heavily-muscled Tyson, 220 pounds (99.7 kg) said, "I'm gonna knock Peter McNeeley out. You come and watch. I'm sure you'll find it very stimulating... I'm here to win, man."

All week McNeeley, whose father, Tom, lost a title fight to Floyd Patterson in 1961, has been screaming to anyone who will listen that he'll knock out Tyson. That's hardly a unique claim by fighters, but from the highly-charged McNeeley it ap-

last April.

For many boxing observers, Seldon, and WBC champion Oliver McCall are seen as baby-sitting the titles until Tyson is ready to fight for them.

Seldon certainly knows the new reality of the heavyweight division now with Tyson back.

Asked if he felt slighted by being the champion and having to fight on the undercard of the Tyson-McNeeley fight, Seldon said: "I love it. It doesn't bother me. What better undercard can I be on than a Mike Tyson card?"

## All-Africa Games safe but ...

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 18: Organisers of the all-Africa Games dismissed on Friday reports that preparations for the competition in Zimbabwe next month were so far behind schedule that they would have to be postponed, reports Reuter.

"The first thing I want to dispel is the reports that the Games might have to be postponed," Tommy Sithole, chairman of the organising committee, told a news conference in Johannesburg.

"Short of a calamity, there is no way that these Games are going to be postponed," he said.

The reports said the Zimbabwe government had been slow in disbursing funds for the Games from September 13-23, resulting in delays in preparing facilities.

"Some facilities are not ready," Sithole said. "But between 95 and 97 per cent of the facilities are ready. The major facilities that we really needed to have, are ready."

He said the organisers had had to trim some non-essential items but were only 1.2 million rand (340,000 dollars) short of their planned budget. "But that is not a

matter of life and death."

Sithole said there had been concern at the slow pace of renovations to the gymnastics hall.

"It was the government that had to do the renovations. We expressed our disquiet about the work and we had the minister of public construction two days ago visiting the place and he guaranteed us that in two weeks it will be ready."

Sithole denied reports that the small-bore shooting event had been cancelled because of the price of ammunition but said organisers of that event had managed to cut their planned spending to 50,000 rand (14,000 dollars) from 2.2 million rand (600,000 dollars).

"There is not one disci-

pline from our original list that has been cancelled."

He said 43 countries had registered for the Games so far with Nigeria, South Africa and Egypt likely to send the biggest contingents.

"Some of the competitions are Olympic qualifying competitions — like hockey, weightlifting, boxing, karate. You have to go to Zimbabwe if you want to go to the Olympics next year."

"Athletics — I know that some of the world's best athletes are going to be there... some of the African athletes that already being trained in Atlanta are coming. We are going to have 17 of them," Sithole said. "All the countries are taking the Games very seriously."

### FIFA team to visit Japan, ROK in Oct

ZURICH, Switzerland, Aug 18: A five-man delegation will visit South Korea and Japan, candidates for the 2002 World Cup, at the end of October and beginning of November, FIFA announced on Thursday, reports AFP.

The delegation will be headed by Horst Schmidt, secretary general of the German federation, together with Solomon Morewa, president of the South African Federation, Hank Steinbrecher, secretary general of the American federation, security expert Ernest Walker, and Richard Bunn from an international television consortium.

They will visit South Korea from October 31 to November 3, and Japan from November 4 to 7 before compiling a report for FIFA's executive committee.

### Sweden beat US

NORRKPING, Sweden, Aug 18: Sweden, third place play-off winners in last year's World Cup, ended a seven-match winless run by beating the United States 1-0 on Wednesday, but only through a late penalty, reports Reuter.

Sweden had dominated the first half but a superb display by goalkeeper Brad Friedel kept the scoresheet clean.

### No Christie

LONDON, Aug 18: Olympic 100 metres champion Linford Christie has pulled out of Britain's match against the United States in Gateshead on Monday, reports Reuter.

Christie, who finished sixth in the World Championships final in Gothenburg last week after aggravating a hamstring injury in his semifinal, won the 100 metres at the Zurich Grand Prix on Wednesday.

In a statement today, Christie's management company said he had withdrawn from the meeting on medical advice.

"We would like to stress that Linford's decision is based on medical reasons and does not include any financial considerations whatsoever," the statement said.

### FIFA expel Niger

NIAMEY, Aug 18: The international soccer federation FIFA has suspended the West African state of Niger from competitions because of delays in setting up a new national soccer body, the sports ministry said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The government dissolved the national soccer federation four months ago because of poor performance and management infighting, and set up an interim management committee.