

South African Hestrie Strobeck clears her way to break the All-Africa Games record by 5 cm during the high jump event at the National Sports Stadium in Harare on Sept 15. — AFP/UNB photo

Hlasek upsets Ivanisevic

Bordeaux (France), Sept 16: Swiss Jakob Hlasek played near perfect tennis to dump top seed Goran Ivanisevic out of the Brodeux tennis tournament on a rainy quarter-finals day on Friday, reports Reuter.

Hlasek, seeded seventh in the 369,370 dollars event, used his serve, ironically the Croatian's strongest weapon, to storm to a 6-3, 6-1 victory in just 42 minutes.

The Swiss put an impressive 89 per cent of his first serves in the court and there was very little Ivanisevic could do.

The hard-hitting Croat, his mind perhaps already on a Davis Cup tie against India starting next Friday in New Delhi, looked sluggish in a match delayed and interrupted by rain.

"He's bit fragile and the fact that the match started late and was then stopped certainly helped me," said Hlasek. "But I'm happy with the way I played."

"Honestly, I can't serve any better. I only missed two or three in the whole match and the rest were winning serves or aces."

Hlasek next meets undefeated Australian Jason Stoltenberg, who advanced to the semifinals by beating French sixth seed Olivier Delaite 4-6, 7-6, 6-1.

Nozszly beats Bruguera

BUCHAREST, Sept 16: Hungarian qualifier Sandor Nozszly produced the shock of the tournament by beating third seed Sergi Bruguera of Spain 6-4, 6-2 in the quarter-finals of the Romanian Open on Friday, reports Reuter.

"It was the game of my life... beating one of world's best players," said Nozszly, ranked 143rd in the world.

Bruguera, 20th in the rankings, admitted he had been outplayed by the 23-year-old.

The win took Nozszly closer to his ambition of entering the top 100 in the world rankings and it has already assured him of a big pay day with prize money of 66,100 dollars for reaching the semifinals where he faces top seed Thomas Muster of Austria today.

Gunnar Nordahl passes away

MILAN, Sept 16: Swedish striker Gunnar Nordahl, who performed unrivalled goalscoring feats for Italian club AC Milan in the 1950s, has died in Sardinia, aged 72, reports Reuter.

Milan spokeswoman Manola Pastini said Nordahl, who with compatriots Gunnar Gren and Nils Liedholm made up a devastating attacking trio for Sweden and Milan in the 1950s, died in the western resort town of Alghero on Friday.

He had been in Sardinia acting as a tourist guide and was believed to have suffered a heart attack.

Nordahl was the Italian League's most prolific striker during five seasons in the early 1950s, when he joined the club as the first Swede to play professional soccer abroad.

Liedholm and Gren, with whom he had won an Olympic soccer gold medal in 1948, followed him there in an attacking line-up that came to be known as the Gre-No-Li trio.

Milan whom the Championship in 1951 and 1955 and Nordahl went on to score 210 goals for the club, a mark no subsequent Milan player has equalled.

All-Africa Games Nigerians dominate Day 3

HARARE, Sept 16: Nigerian runners dominated the track of Friday as they took four of the six gold medals on offer on the third day of the All-Africa Games, reports Reuter.

Their women were especially to the fore, claiming gold, silver and bronze in both the 100 and 400 metres with Mary Onyali winning the 100 in 11.18 and Fatima Yussuf the 400 in 49.43.

It left Nigeria third in the medals count, just behind South Africa and Egypt.

"It was not very easy," Onyali said. "I have had a long season in Europe and to still be strong now is a little difficult. But we planned to take the available medals to Nigeria and we have done that."

Nigeria's other two gold medals came through Davidson Ezinwa, who won the men's 100 metres in 10.24,

and Omolade Akinremi, winner of the women's 400 metres hurdles in 56.10.

Ezinwa was especially pleased with his performance after a year plagued by injury.

"I have not done much in the year," he said. "Injuries have troubled me but these Games would appear to confirm that my fears should be part of history."

Kenya took the two other track golds, with Samson Kitur winning the men's 400 metres from Nigerian Sunday Bada in 44.36 seconds and African champion Josephat Machuka the men's 10,000 metres in 28 minutes 3.6 seconds, ahead of compatriot Paul Koech.

Problems that have plagued the smooth running of the Games over the first few days appeared to ease on Friday but the head of the organizing committee, Tommy Sithole, acknowledged that Zimbabwe had bitten off more than it could chew by

staging them. "African countries have to accept that they are far too poor for this kind of Games festival," he said, adding that 21 disciplines were too many to handle.

MEDALS TABLE
Medals table at the end of day three of the All-Africa Games on Friday.

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Egypt	7	4	3	14
South Africa	6	8	6	20
Nigeria	6	3	5	14
Kenya	3	3	3	9
Tunisia	3	2	3	8
Zimbabwe	2	2	2	6
Algeria	1	3	4	8
Ethiopia	1	0	4	5
Sierra Leone	1	0	0	1
Mauritius	0	1	3	4
Senegal	0	1	1	2
Burkina Faso	0	1	0	1
Cote D'Ivoire	0	1	0	1
Ghana	0	1	0	1
Angola	0	0	1	1
Cameroon	0	0	1	1
Gabon	0	0	1	1
Namibia	0	0	1	1

Bannister fires a pot-shot

NEWCASTLE, England, Sept 16: Roger Bannister, the man who 41 years ago became the first to run a mile in under four minutes, said here Wednesday that black athletes are biologically better at running than white competitors, reports AFP.

"I am prepared to risk political incorrectness by drawing attention to the seemingly obvious but understated fact that black sprinters and black athletes in general all seem to have certain anatomical advantages," he said at the British Athletic Association's annual science festival in this northern city.

"It may be an adaptation of their muscles to life in hot climates... it may be that their power to weight ratio is better because of the relative lack of subcutaneous fatty insulating tissue in the skin," said Bannister, a neurologist and chairman of the government committee on sport in universities.

He also said he expected an athlete to achieve a three-and-a-half minute mile some time in the next century. At a news conference, Bannister — who ran the first four-minute mile as a 25-year-old medical student in 1954 — acknowledged his remarks would be seen as controversial.

But he told reporters that it seemed to him "perfectly obvious when you observe a phenomenon and you are a scientist that you seek to explain the causes of it."

He said the outstanding performance of Kenyan distance runners may be the result of living at high altitude.

But this did not explain the achievements of other African athletes like the Algerian Noureddine Morcelli, "the greatest middle distance runner in the world so far."

He also suggested that modern athletes are training too hard for their own good. Coe, who had earlier set the 800 metres world record of 1:41.73 which still stands 14 years on, recovered and went on to set another world record in the mile.

"There comes a point however when training for more than two hours a day, often in two sessions, com-

pared with my paltry 30 minutes a day in the 1950s, can bring its own problems. Some runners are over-trained," Bannister said.

Bannister, saying he was prepared to risk political criticism, said black athletes seemed to have natural anatomical advantages, especially in the sprints.

Sociologists, particularly in the United States, have attacked similar claims as demeaning to blacks in general.

But Bannister said all-black sprint finals in major competitions and the domination of Kenyans—born and trained at altitude—and other African athletes in middle distance events were observed facts.

However, Bannister said this did not mean European athletes should give up, citing the rivalry between Coe and fellow Britons Steve Ovett and Steve Cram who dominated middle distance running in the 1980s.

"The real limiting factor in extreme athletic performance is not physical but mental," he said.

Italy, Holland in Euro v'bal final

ATHENS, Greece, Sept 16: Defending champions Italy beat Yugoslavia 3-1 and Holland whipped Bulgaria 3-0 on Friday to advance to the final of the European Championship, reports AP.

The two teams were also finalists in the previous European Championship in Finland in 1993 and played against each other in the finals of World Volleyball Championship held here last year. Italy defeated Holland to take the world title.

Italy won the first set 15-11 in 28 minutes. The Italians took the lead 3-0 in the second but the Yugoslavs fought back to win 15-10 in 27 minutes.

The other two games were easy for the Italians, who won them 15-6, 15-9 in 48 minutes.

The Dutch had no trouble in beating Bulgaria 15-6, 15-5, 15-8 in one hour 24 minutes.

In another game for the 5-8 positions, Russia stopped Germany 3-0 (15-13, 15-7, 15-11).

Kleinova in TVA Cup tennis final

NAGOYA, Sept 16: Sandra Kleinova of the Czech Republic upset, top-seeded Yone Kamio of Japan on Saturday, setting up a final match with American Linda Harvey-Wild at the TVA Cup Ladies Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

Kleinova scored a 6-1, 7-5 victory in the semifinal match at Aichi Municipal Gymnasium in central Japan.

The Czech broke in the fourth and sixth games in the first set. In the second set, she broke in the third and 11th games while Kamio broke in back the fourth game in a match that took 76 minutes.

Harvey-Wild, firing four service aces, crushed Australian Kristin Grudridge 6-0, 6-0 in 48 minutes.

The final was scheduled for Sunday.

A smoke-free Atlanta

ATLANTA (Georgia), Sept 16: The 1996 Atlanta Olympics will be smoke-free — with smoking and tobacco advertising banned at all Olympic venues, reports AFP.

Organisers said Friday: "The promotion of tobacco products will be prohibited, including distribution of free samples, coupons and other promotional items," a statement from the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games said.

Doctor John Cantwell, chief medical officer of ACOG, said the ban was a "collaborative effort among a broad cross-section of members of the medical and health-care communities."

Restrictions on smoking in public places are common across the United States. ACOG officials said they would develop an information campaign to explain the no-smoking policy to visitors, athletes and officials from participating countries where smoking is less restricted.

"Our intention is to ensure that our visitors will be able to enjoy the 1996 Olympic Games in a smoke-free environment," said ACOG director for operations Morris Dillard.

A favour for Fredericks

HARARE, Sept 16: Organisers delayed the men's 200-metre qualifiers in hopes of accommodating Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks, but his team said Saturday he still couldn't make it to Harare in time to add star appeal to the All-Africa Games, reports AP.

"There is no way that Fredericks will be here this afternoon," Namibian general team manager Frederick J Briesley said. He said Sunday morning was the earliest the world record holder could reach Zimbabwe from Tokyo, where he had been planning to compete in a rival event.

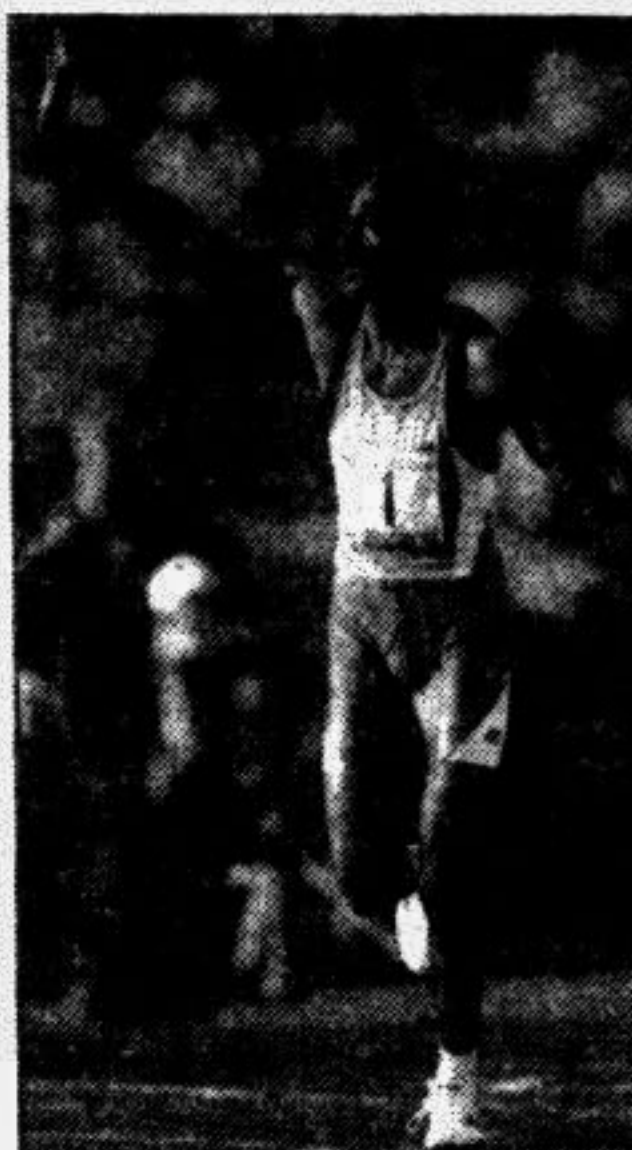
Earlier in the week, organisers pushed the 200-metre heats from Saturday morning to Saturday evening. South African pole vaulter Okkert Brits also was in Tokyo, and the pole vault in Harare had been pushed from Saturday afternoon to Sunday morning.

Organisers said "pressure was brought to bear" on both Fredericks and Brits to honour their earlier commitments to the African showcase.

Fredericks holds the world 200-metre record of 19.72. The All-Africa Games record is more than a second slower at 20.77. Brits holds the world pole vault

record of 6.14 metres (20.26 feet), only the third man in history to vault over 6 metres (19.8 feet).

The All-Africa Games have been marred by the absence of several top stars in running, the continent's stren-



FRANKIE FREDERICKS gth in international athletics.

Kenya said steeplechase champion Moses Kiptanui needed a rest period in his current training for next year's Atlanta Olympics after competing in last month's World Athletics Championships in Sweden and the

Grand Prix contest in Switzerland, where he became the first man to run the 3,000-metre steeplechase in under eight minutes.

Four other top Kenyan runners skipped Zimbabwe to train for this month's World Military Games in Rome.

Ethiopia's world 5,000-metre record holder Haile Gebrselassie pulled out of the Harare meetings at the last minute, also because problems with his training schedule, Ethiopian officials said.

World half marathon champion Elana Meyer of South Africa pulled out because of a hip injury, but she said she was coming to Harare anyway to give moral support to her nation's 350-strong team, taking part for the first time since South Africa re-entered the international sporting arena.

The 10-day Olympic-style Games also have been plagued by administrative hitches blamed on poor planning and a shortage of money to fund contests in 21 disciplines.

Jean Claude Ganga, president of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa, told reporters he believed the four-yearly African meeting has become over-ambitious, putting unnecessary strain on an undeveloped continent.

Medalist Moses looks a gift-horse in the mouth

By Robert Okinyiotani from Nairobi

A succession of world-class runners have put Kenya on the international sporting map — and in the process have earned themselves unexpected wealth. Gemini News Service looks at how the country's athletes are dealing with the cash, cars, gold bars and horses.

KENYAN runner Moses Kiptanui looked at the horse he was given by the promoters of an athletics meeting in Switzerland, and commented: "If it was a cow I'd definitely take it home. But what do I do with a bloody horse?"

"These people are funny," he added. "They'll give you all manner of funny prizes."

The 24-year-old 3,000 metre steeplechase world record-holder is not too sad, however; he also received a bar of gold valued at 784,000 Kenya shillings. A few days before, in Gothenburg, Sweden, he won a KSh4 million Mercedes Benz.

Thanks to his track performances, Kiptanui is well-off even by North American and European standards, and he has tried to invest his money carefully. He is principal shareholder in a company dealing in printing, hire taxis, and freight transport.

He feels he has worked hard for it: "People think that because I'm a Kenyan I only go out there and win without trying hard."

To critics who question such lavish winnings, he retorts: "Why should I break the world record for nothing? What did I go to do in Gothenburg? Of course, to win a good medal and glory for my country. And that's exactly what I did. What else did people want?"

And the winning have not sapped his ambition. He wants to emulate his role model, Henry Rono, who in 1978 set three world records in 90 days. His immediate target is to set the 1500m record "in the very foreseeable future."



Kenya's Moses Kiptanui: The running business

He is just one of a growing group of Kenyan athletes who come from humble backgrounds, rarely saw the inside of a high school, and who made their first million shillings when still in their teens.

Earnings come from sponsorship as well as from winnings. Reebok, which provides Kiptanui's kit, paid him a KSh2 million bonus for breaking a world record while wearing the company's shoes.

Like Kiptanui, Cosmas Ndeti drives an expensive car, courtesy of his exploits in the Boston Marathon and other road races. He has also built a church and brought equipment for several others in his home district of Machakos.

But he wears his newfound wealth quietly, and does not brag or show off as he quietly enters or leaves the country for races or business trips.

Distance runner Tecla Lorupe is equally self-effacing. At 21, she holds two half-marathon titles, and last year won KSh1.5 million and a limousine for her victory in the New York Marathon.

Yet she pays for her own air tickets when she flies home from Japan for national trials, and does not demand a refund from the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association.

Second-tier stars such as Rose Cheruiyot, Sally Barosio and William Sigei are not as rich but are nurturing their winnings to guard against harder times and to provide for the day when they no longer breast the tape first.

They have some good examples to follow. Marathon runner Peter Koech and former world cross-country champion John Ngugi are successful businessmen. Fellow long distance runner Douglas Wakithuri is doing well in Japan, where he has

been based for more than 10 years, and Ibrahim Hussein runs a hardware store, a hotel and a transport business in his home town, Kapsabet.

Hussein has also set up a junior athletes club in the town, and hopes one day to become a track agent to capture some of the big earnings currently being made from Kenyan athletes by agents in Europe and North America.

Not all successful athletes far so well. Runner Ismael Kirui's elder brother, Richard Chelimo, a former Olympic 10,000 m silver medalist, is fighting to get back into shape and return to the track following the failure of his investments.

And some of Kenya's earlier stars from the past have little to show for their former lustre. Legendary middle-distance runner Kipchoge Keino is an exception. He is not rich, but he runs a book and stationery business in Eldoret, his home town.

— Gemini News
About the Author: Robert Okinyiotani is a freelance writer who was formerly on the staff of the Kenya Daily Mail.

Direceu dead in a car crash

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 16: Former Brazil midfielder Direceu, who played for his country in three World Cups, was killed in a car crash on Friday, police said, reports Reuter.

Direceu, 43, died at the scene after his car was involved in a collision with another vehicle at an accident blackspot, an officer said. A passenger in the car also died.

Direceu, full name Direceu Jose Guimaraes, was best-known for his combative style of play and powerful left-foot shot.

He played for Brazil in the 1974, 1978 and 1982 World Cups and missed out on the 1986 tournament only because of injury.

He scored some spectacular goals from long range, including two against Peru in a 1978 World Cup game and another in the third-place play-off against Italy.

Direceu made his full international debut against Austria in 1973 and went on to win 26 caps, the last in 1986 against Chile.

He played for 14 clubs in his 21-year career, including Italian clubs Verona, Ascoli, Napoli and Comp, Spanish club Atletico Madrid and Mexican sides America and Leon.

He retired in 1988 at the age of 36 while at Rio De Janeiro club Vasco Da Gama, following a row with the management. He made a brief comeback this year with Mexican Second Division side Yucatan but left after four months.

In June 50,000 fans watched his farewell game at the Jalisco Stadium in Guadalajara.



Mary Onyali of Nigeria shows her ecstasy after defending her women's 100-metre title at the All-Africa Games in Harare on Sept 15. — AFP/UNB photo

McLatchey new AOC Secy Gen

SYDNEY, Sept 16: Former swimming administrator Craig McLatchey was Friday named as Secretary-General of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC), reports AP.

McLatchey has been the AOC's director of sport since 1991 and his new role will see him play a key role in Australia's preparations to host the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

The secretary general of the AOC is automatically a member of the board of the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG).

McLatchey, a former soccer player, joined the AOC after a five-year stint as national executive director of the Australian Swimming.

"His understanding of the Olympic movement and sport in Australia will be invaluable as we head towards Atlanta next year and then Sydney in 2000," said AOC president John Coates.