

Sport

Wiranata's plight!

CHELTENHAM, England, Apr 4: Ardy Wiranata, silver medalist at the Barcelona Games in 1992 when badminton made its Olympic bow, has not qualified for Atlanta, although a player from Mauritius, ranked 179 places lower, will be there, reports Reuter.

Wiranata, one of the sport's great artists and entertainers and a former All-England champion, is ranked world number seven.

But such is the strength of Indonesian badminton that he is rated only fourth in his own country. As only a maximum of three players from any one country are permitted, Wiranata misses out in favour of world champion Heryanto Arbi, world number one Joko Suprianto and Olympic champion Allan Budi Kusuma.

The full list of qualifiers, based on the latest world rankings, was released on Wednesday by the International Badminton Federation (IBF).

Referring to Wiranata, a spokeswoman said: "Being part of the world's most successful badminton country does have its drawbacks."

Ironically, as each continent must supply at least one player, world ranked 186 Eddy Clarisse of Mauritius, will be in Atlanta, fulfilling the African requirement.

Compatriot Martine de Souza, ranked 149 among the women, will also make the trip, pitched against such as world champion Ye Zhaoying of China and titleholder Susi Susanti of Indonesia.

The mixed doubles, being staged for the first time, features South Korean doubles specialist Park Joo-Bong, who has come out of retirement to try to add gold to the men's doubles title he won in Barcelona.

Krajicek's no to Atlanta

THE HAGUE, Apr 4: Dutch tennis star Richard Krajicek has become the latest player to refuse to play in the Atlanta Olympics, reports AFP.

Instead the 24-year-old has decided to compete in the Los Angeles Open, where he reached the semi-final's last year.

World number one Thomas Muster of Austria, American Michael Chang, Sweden's Stefan Edberg and Chile's Marcelo Rios have already turned down the chance to compete in the Olympics.

Dutch Olympic delegation head Andre Bolhuis said on Wednesday that Krajicek, who had already been selected, was the first person to pull out of a Dutch Olympic team.

"It's his choice, but it's a shame. He is not motivated by the Olympic spirit," said Bolhuis.

Opinion

Change the WC format

Tanvir Haider

The World Cup 1996 fixture was prepared in such a way that there were two groups, A and B. Regarding the overall performance there was a big debate about which group was the stronger.

The general view was that Group B was much stronger than Group A. But, unfortunately none of the teams could qualify for the second round from the Group B. Therefore, the judgement of cricket fans was incorrect.

The fixture and the playing conditions are to blame for this. Therefore, the next World Cup should follow the Australia format of 1992. In that way the Champion of the World Cup will actually be the best team amongst the participating nations. In the World Championship the participating teams should play each other. The team which will win most of the matches will be declared the World Champion. There will be no argument about the best team of the tournament as they would have won by playing against all the participating teams. This will also test the strength of each team against all the other participating nations.

It would be a matter of great satisfaction for the win-

ning team as they would have proved their superior skills against all comers.

The next World Cup, therefore, should be played on a league basis and the top two teams should play the final.

The World Cup of 1996 has left the supporters of this sub-continent with a heavy heart

because for the first time a game of cricket, the semi-final at Calcutta, was abandoned due to crowd trouble. In the past there was no such incident.

This is a great shame for India

and it will be very difficult for this region to gain back the World Cup Tournament. It will

also be remembered for a long

time that another nation, Sri Lanka, already having suffered

because of the security reasons

with Australia and West Indies

refusing to play their first

round matches. This was also a

great blow to this region,

where this game of cricket has

got life and respect.

During the World Cup 1996, it has been observed that a high-value game can be decided by wrong means on the table rather than in the field.

Teams of this region has

shown a new trend of selling a

match for huge amounts of

money. The nation is host to a

bunch of idiots who trade their

nation for their personal benefits

without respecting the

sentiment of the nation. In

various national dailies of Paki-

stan it has been alleged that

their players have taken bribes

and this has demolished the

respect of the former world

champions. In Calcutta, too,

after the semi-final there were

similar charges against India.

If this bribery thing has at

all happened then there

should be a law to punish such

players and officials; so that no

such unhappy incidents can

take place in the next World

Cup. Thereby, the cricket-loving

fans can enjoy the game by

being assured that cricket is

being played in the ground and

not on the table.

The lack of combat didn't

impress some among a capacity

crowd of 4,000 in the city

of Cordoba, 710 kilometres

north of Buenos Aires.

"It was a parody," one

spectator said, who left the

ringside after the first round.

"In a serious fight, someone

weighing as much as Maradona

wouldn't have lasted a second."

It was not the first time the

35-year-old former Argentine

captain had tried his hand at

boxing.

During his preparation for

the 1994 World Cup finals,

from which he was expelled

for drug abuse, Maradona often

boxed against retired fighters

in a Buenos Aires Gymnasium.

While playing for Italy's

Napoli in the 1980's Maradona

also fought against Junior

light-middleweight champion

Patrizio Oliva in an exhibition

match.

The lack of combat didn't

impress some among a capacity

crowd of 4,000 in the city

of Cordoba, 710 kilometres

north of Buenos Aires.

"It was a parody," one

spectator said, who left the

ringside after the first round.

"In a serious fight, someone

weighing as much as Maradona

wouldn't have lasted a second."

It was not the first time the

35-year-old former Argentine

captain had tried his hand at

boxing.

During his preparation for

the 1994 World Cup finals,

from which he was expelled

for drug abuse, Maradona often

boxed against retired fighters

in a Buenos Aires Gymnasium.

While playing for Italy's

Napoli in the 1980's Maradona

also fought against Junior

light-middleweight champion

Patrizio Oliva in an exhibition

match.

The lack of combat didn't

impress some among a capacity

crowd of 4,000 in the city

of Cordoba, 710 kilometres

north of Buenos Aires.

"It was a parody," one

spectator said, who left the

ringside after the first round.

"In a serious fight, someone

weighing as much as Maradona

wouldn't have lasted a second."

It was not the first time the

35-year-old former Argentine

captain had tried his hand at

boxing.

During his preparation for

the 1994 World Cup finals,

from which he was expelled

for drug abuse, Maradona often

boxed against retired fighters

in a Buenos Aires Gymnasium.

While playing for Italy's

Napoli in the 1980's Maradona

also fought against Junior

light-middleweight champion

Patrizio Oliva in an exhibition

match.

The lack of combat didn't

impress some among a capacity

crowd of 4,000 in the city

of Cordoba, 710 kilometres

north of Buenos Aires.

"It was a parody," one

spectator said, who left the

ringside after the first round.

"In a serious fight, someone

weighing as much as Maradona

wouldn't have lasted a second."

It was not the first time the

35-year-old former Argentine

captain had tried his hand at

boxing.

During his preparation for

the 1994 World Cup finals,

from which he was expelled

for drug abuse, Maradona often

boxed against retired fighters

in a Buenos Aires Gymnasium.

While playing for Italy's

Napoli in the 1980's Maradona