

### Bradman in good health

SYDNEY, June 16: Australian cricket officials on Sunday countered media reports that Sir Donald Bradman, the sport's most prolific batsman and a national hero, was in failing health after a recent stroke, reports Reuter.

The Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported on Sunday that Bradman, 87, had suffered a stroke. The Sydney newspaper also said his wife, Lady Jessie Bradman, was seriously ill with inoperable cancer.

South Australia Cricket Association (SACA) chief executive Barry Gibbs told reporters Bradman was in good health and had played golf on Friday after working for over two hours at the association's Adelaide offices.

Gibbs said Bradman had suffered a 'very mild' stroke six months ago and that Lady Jessie Bradman was in good spirits and was undergoing treatment for cancer.

"Any inference that they are both critically ill is far from the truth," Gibbs said.

The SACA has for many years acted as the official mouthpieces for the reclusive Bradman, who last month granted what he said would be his final media interview to Australia's Channel Nine television network.

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### No change in England team

LONDON, June 16: England have chosen to stick with their winning line-up for the second Test against India which starts at Lord's on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The only change to the squad which won the first Test at Edgbaston by eight wickets is the omission of John Crawley, who is nursing a hamstring strain. The Lancashire batsman has not been replaced.

Alec Stewart is again on stand-by for opener Nick Knight, who is trying to shake off a finger injury and faces a fitness Test on Tuesday.

"We expect Knight to be fit. He has full movement in the knuckle above the little finger of his right hand and that is a good sign," England chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth said.

"The important thing for us is to show the same enthusiasm and the same keenness as at Edgbaston and to get stuck into it again."

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### Tauziat pumps up the volume

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 16: Nathalie Tauziat of France gained a repeat victory over Holland's Miriam Oremans at the DFS Classic women's grass-court tournament on Saturday and declared herself ready to make a serious assault on Wimbledon, reports Reuter.

Tauziat beat Oremans 6-2, 6-3 in a 63-minute semifinal and said: "I beat Miriam in a long three-set match here at Birmingham two years ago but then I was not such a good grass-court player."

"Since then I've improved a lot on grass and winning the Eastbourne tournament last year gave me a lot more confidence."

"Now I feel I can trouble the best on grass but maybe we shall find out when I defend my title at Eastbourne next week. There will be a lot of good players there who will be seeded at Wimbledon."

"I want to play one of them and beat them to give me a boost for Wimbledon."

Tauziat, going to the net at every opportunity, dominated all the way, leading 3-0 in the first set and 3-1 in the second before crashing to a comfortable victory.

But in the other semifinal top seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy lost her temper as she was beaten 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 by American Meredith McGrath.

Switzerland-based McGrath was serving for the match at 5-4 in the final set when, at 15-0, she hit a ball which the Dutch player claimed was a double bounce.

When the umpire ignored her objection and called 30-0 Schultz-McCarthy threw her racket which slid under the net. She was given a code violation for racket abuse and McGrath served out for the match.

Schultz-McCarthy admitted afterwards it might not have been a double bounce and said: "I guess I was just frustrated. I had been 5-1 down in the final set and had pulled up to 5-4 and I so desperately wanted to win the next game."

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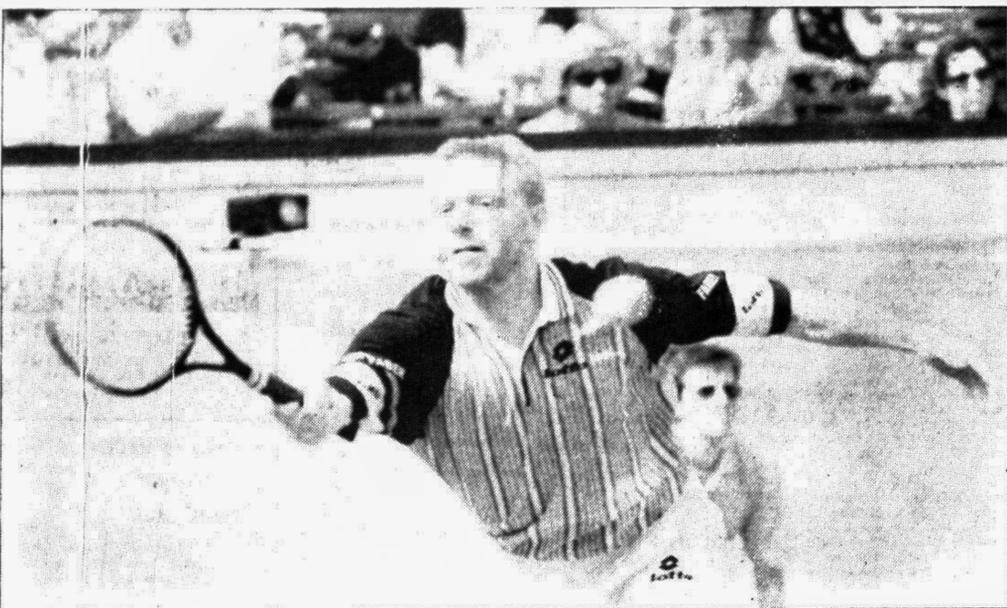
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Germany's Boris Becker stretches for a forehand return against South African Wayne Ferreira during their semifinal of the Queen's Club tournament in London on June 15. Becker overpowered Ferreira 7-6, 6-4. — AFP/UNB photo

## Stefan set for last hurdle

LONDON, June 16: World number four Boris Becker stands between Stefan Edberg and a perfect farewell to the London grass court championships after the pair posted semifinal wins at Queen's Club on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Edberg, 30, who will retire from the tennis Tour at the end of the year, defused the big-hitting power play of top seed and world number two Thomas Muster 6-7, 6-3, 7-6 to advance to his first ATP Tour final in a year.

Becker, 28, three times champion at Queen's Club, overran South African fourth seed Wayne Ferreira 7-6, 6-4 in one hour 32 minutes.

The German will also win an added incentive to win a fourth title at Queen's. Today's clash with Edberg comes on the 11th anniversary of his 1985 triumph — a win that launched the then raw 17-year-old towards the top and put him on the path a month later to the first of his three Wimbledon titles.

Becker and Edberg have been long-time rivals. Sunday will be their 16th clash in a final with Becker leading 10-5 although the last time the pair met on grass was the 1990 Wimbledon final, which Edberg won.

Becker, though, leads 3-2 on grass and also has the better overall record of 24-10 in the times they have met.

Edberg, champion in 1991 but seeded 14th this year used his superior volleying on a sun-baked Centre Court to overcome clay court specialist Muster.

It was the Austrian's first grass court semifinal but his preparations for Wimbledon were helped by encouraging signs during the week that he is coming to grips with the surface.

Edberg, ranked 26th in the world, has put together a string of impressive performances since making the quarterfinals at the Italian Open last month and the fourth round at the French Open.

"I'm playing well. I'm eager, but from there Edberg's clinical serve and volley play gave him the edge. The Swede broke in the eighth game of the second set and then racked up two more in the third and fifth games of third to win on this first match point in one hour 43 minutes.

"I felt really comfortable out there. I was moving well and serving pretty well," said the Swede who will play his third final at Queen's Club.

"I've really picked up my form week by week. I kept on working, kept on believing."

Muster, who is embarking on a concerted build-up to Wimbledon for the first time this year, believes he has shown that he is more than just a clay court specialist.

"I got four matches this week and improved every day," he said. His preparations continue next week when he plays on grass in Halle, Germany.

Becker, too, believes he is running into strong form after a thigh injury forced him to miss the French Open.

Looking for his fourth title, which would put him level with John McEnroe at the top of the Queen's honours list, he was always in control against world number 12 Ferreira, winning on his third match point.

"Today was the best match I've played so far."

I had to raise my game and serve better," said Becker who added that the meeting with Edberg in the final would be something to look forward to.

"It hasn't happened for quite a while. It's special to play Stefan this year but even more special in the final of Queens."



STEFAN EDBERG

I'm hungry and I'm wanting to win very, very badly," he said.

His last four final was in Washington last July, when he lost to Andre Agassi, while his last tournament win was the Qatar Open in January, 1995.

Muster, who had not won a tournament match on grass before this week, served powerfully, clubbing the ball past his rival at every opportunity.

He came from 5-3 down to take the first set 7-2 in the tie-break, winning the first three points and maintaining

the advantage.

But from there Edberg's clinical serve and volley play gave him the edge. The Swede broke in the eighth game of the second set and then racked up two more in the third and fifth games of third to win on this first match point in one hour 43 minutes.

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### Linford loves to linger

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 16: Linford Christie won the 100 metres at the British Olympic trials on Saturday to secure his place for Atlanta, but still refused to confirm whether he would go to the Games, reports Reuter.

Christie, 36, clocked 10:04 seconds to equal his best time for the year but said he would only decide whether to defend his title on July 1, the deadline for Olympic entries.

A British Athletic Federation spokesman said they would be picking Christie for his third Games and would await his reply.

Christie said: "It is not possible to make a decision at the moment. I will decide after running at meetings in Paris (June 28) and Gateshead (June 30)."

Darren Braithwaite, a 1995 World Championship semifinalist, finished second in 10:25 also gaining automatic selection.

In the semifinal, Christie had pulled up after a few metres with three other runners in anticipation of a false start by Julian Golding.

But there was no starters recall, and there was some confusion until meeting manager Malcolm Rogers watched a recording of the incident after protests were lodged and ruled a faulty start.

Colin Jackson returned to form after four successive defeats with victory in the 110 metres hurdles in an impressive 13.13, equalling the second best time in the world this year.

Jackson, the world record holder, admitted he was only about 85 per cent fit. "My doctor said I really need six weeks rest to get over the tendinitis I have in my lead leg, but I don't have the time."

Tony Jarrett finished a distant second in 13.41.

Earlier, Sally Gunnell, the Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion, produced her fastest time of the year when winning her heat in 55.64 seconds.

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## Lewis' languorous show

ATLANTA, June 16: Carl Lewis can't blame a virus this time, only his 34-year-old body.

Lewis finished last as Dennis Mitchell won the final of the men's 100 metres at the US track and field trials Saturday night, failing to qualify for the Olympic team in the event for the second straight time, report agencies.

Mitchell, the 1992 Olympic bronze medalist, collapsed on the track after winning in 9.92 seconds tied for fastest in the world this year. Mike Marsh, the 1992 Olympic champion in the 200, was second in 10.00 and Jon Drummond was the third qualifier in 10.01.

Jeff Williams finished fourth in 10.06 seconds with world record holder Leroy Burrell sixth in 10.07.

"I got out well but at 50 metres every muscle in my leg started to cramp... and I said, 'Lord, take me to the line' and he did," said the Mitchell, who was clothed in a day-glo green uniform and wearing a ring in his pierced right eyebrow.

"And I'm Barcelona-bound, baby," added the excited Mitchell, obviously forgetting he was in the very stadium where the 1996 Games would be staged.

Gwen Torrence won the women's 100, edging rival Gail Devers, and Jackie Joyner-Kersey was shocked in the heptathlon — losing to an American for the first time in 13 years — but still qualified for the Olympics.

Lewis pulled up at the end of the race, in which he trailed badly and finished in 10.21, and then grimaced as he sat on the track and held his right calf.

"I'm in great condition, but today my body didn't give me the opportunity," Lewis said. "I don't feel bad. I'm frustrated because I knew I was ready to run fast, but it just wasn't my day."

Lewis said he now will concentrate on qualifying in the 200 and the long jump, though his coach, Tom Tellez, questioned whether Lewis will still run the 200 at the trials.

"When he can't be competitive any more, there's not point," Tellez said.

Just as in 1992, when a

virus sapped his strength at the trials, Lewis made it to the final but could not finish in the top three in the event he once dominated. Lewis won the Olympic 100 in 1984 and 1988.

After receiving treatment on his calf, Lewis went back on the track to hug Mitchell as the winner cavorted in front of the crowd.

Torrence, the reigning world champion, tied her personal best by finishing in 10.82 seconds — the fastest time in the world this year. Devers,

pressure to do well, it doesn't have anything to do with who I beat," Torrence said. "If I'd have finished second or third, I'd have had my hand up in the air just the same."

Hill, who had a personal best in all four rounds of the competition, won the collegiate title for Louisiana State earlier this month. Five women broke 11 seconds in Saturday's final.

Joyner-Kersey's defeat in the heptathlon was stunning. Kelly Blair won the event with 6,406 points, edging the two-time defending Olympic champion by three points. Joyner-Kersey, who faded badly in the 800 that concluded the two-day competition, had not lost to a compatriot in a heptathlon she finished since 1983.

Joyner-Kersey, 34, who has said this will be her final Olympics, battled through a cold, a twisted ankle and leg spasms when the first four events were contested Friday.

Her 6,403 score this weekend compares with 7,044 points when she won the gold medal in 1992 at Barcelona and 7,291 when she set the world record in winning the gold in 1988 at Seoul.

"It was a tough night mentally and physically for me," Joyner-Kersey said. "I want to continue. I know what I have to do. I'm not going out this way."

World-record holder Randy Barnes won the shot put with a toss of 70 feet, 1 1/2 inches, the best in the world this year and Kenny Harrison won the triple jump with a leap of 59-1 1/4 that would have shattered the American record if not for a tallwind over the legal limit.

World Champion Michael Johnson, so relaxed he appeared to be on a casual training run, easily qualified for the quarterfinals of the 400 metres.

Wearing eye-catching purple shoes, Johnson dominated most of the race before easing up at the line to claim second in 44.80 seconds. Anthonay Maybank was first in 44.77 seconds. Butch Reynolds also qualified in 45.46 seconds.

"I took it out relaxed and patient," Johnson said. "And then I just kind of took it easy coming down the home stretch."



CARL LEWIS

who got an explosive start and led until 50 meters, was second in 10.91 and NCAA champion D'Andre Hill was the third Olympic qualifier in 10.92.

The rivalry between Torrence and Devers is one of the best in women's sports. Devers, the 1992 Olympic champion, had to overcome severe calf, hamstring and buttocks injuries this year.

"I always feel like I'm under



THE VIBRANT TRIO: (From L to R) Gwen Torrence, Gail Devers and D'Andre Bill acknowledge the crowd's cheers after winning the final trial of the women's 100m sprint in Atlanta on Saturday. The three will represent the United States in the Atlanta Olympics, scheduled to begin from July 19. — AFP/UNB photo

## Malcolm mauls Indians

DERBY, England, June 16: India's nightmare tour of England continued when they crashed to a 10-wicket defeat on Saturday at the hands of Derbyshire with a day and half to spare in the four-day match, reports Reuter.

Principle destroyer was

her 11 spot to open the innings then struck of the 13 runs Derbyshire needed for only their second win over a touring side since 1965.

With the second Test starting on Thursday it was an other bad blow for the Indians who have had an unhappy tour so far. Their first few matches were hit by appalling weather, they then suffered the shock walk-out of experienced opener Navot Sidhu, and were beaten in the one day international series and the opening Test.

They struggled throughout the game with both bat and ball but, after conceding a first innings lead of 180, began the day with reason for optimism at 86 for one in their second innings.

But once Vikram Rathore, without adding to his overnight 16, fell to a brilliant one-handed catch at second slip by Chris Adams off Andy Harris in the fourth over of the day, the Indians were always in trouble.

Wickets fell at regular intervals and only Saurav Ganguly made any kind of impression with a fluent 64. He survived a sharp chance off Malcolm to

Adams in the slips but shortly afterwards was frapped in front by Kevin Dean.

Nayan Mongia, who hit a good 74 in the first innings, was needlessly run out by John Owen for 20 and when Malcolm got a ball to lift to Mohammad Azharuddin, the Indian captain edged it off the shoulder of the bat to wicket-keeper Karl Krikken.



GANGULY ... 64

His dismissal led to a rapid end to the innings as the last four wickets fell for the addition of just two runs as Malcolm cleaned up the tail.

With just 13 runs needed, Malcolm opened the batting with Tim Tweats and they knocked off the runs in just 3.5 overs.

It was India's fifth defeat of the tour and manager Sandeep Patil said Azharuddin had vowed to crack the whip before next week's second Test at Lords.

"Azza lost his cool in the dressing room and lashed out at the team," said Patil.

"He is going to be firm, and I mean very, very firm on every issue and play very hard from now on."

"He will have the complete backing (of the management) in everything he intends to do to prevent this sort of humiliation happening again."

Meanwhile man-of-the-match Malcolm said he was still keen to get back into the Test side. "I feel really good again and my ambition is still there. That's why we play and I want to get back into the England side."

"I don't consider my career as an England player is over and I am certainly not giving up with an Ashes series in England next summer."

### Simian sees off Haarhuis

ROSMALEN, Holland, June 16: Stephane Simian of France ended home interest in the Rosmalen ATP tournament here on Saturday beating Paul Haarhuis 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinals, reports AFP.

Simian, ranked 129th in the world, will play the eighth seeded American Richey Reneberg in today's final.

### Russian spikers jolt Japs

TOKYO, June 16: Russia outgunned Japan in four sets to complete the Pool C preliminary round with 12 straight wins against no defeat at the world league men's volleyball tournament on Sunday, reports AFP.

With a 15-6, 6-15, 16-14, 15-1 win, the Russian spikers dashed any hopes of the Japanese for a place in the final stages to be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, June 24-29.

### Strong DPRK squad set for Atlanta

TOKYO, June 16: North Korea, long absent in strength from international sports, intends to send a 70-member delegation including 24 athletes to next month's Atlanta Olympics, a pro-North Korean newspaper said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The Chosun Sinbo newspaper, regarded as the official mouthpiece of North Korea in Japan, said the athletes will compete in the men's and women's marathons, table tennis, boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, shooting and gymnastics.

The delegation, the biggest North Korean team to travel to an international sports event in four years, will be headed by Chang Ung, secretary general of the North Korean Olympic Committee.

Other members of the team would be officials, coaches, doctors and journalists.

The Chosun Sinbo is the official publication of the general association of Korean residents in Japan, an umbrella group representing Koreans living in Japan who are sympathetic to Pyongyang and have relatives in the Communist nation.

North Korea does not have diplomatic relations with Japan.

Groups of two or three North Korean athletes have appeared at foreign sports events over the past four years but North Korea has halted appearances by large teams as the country struggles through difficult economic times.

The 1992 Barcelona Olympics was the last time North Korean athletes were on show in strength. That team won four gold and five bronze medals.

## Lancashire come to life

LONDON, June 16: Lancashire collected their first county championship win of the season when they crushed hapless Durham by 354 runs with a day to spare at Chester-le-Street on Saturday, reports Reuter.

In the only other game to reach a conclusion within three days, a nail-biting finish saw Essex squeeze home by just three runs against Gloucestershire at Bristol.

Lancashire, buoyed by their midweek win over Yorkshire in the Benson and Hedges semifinal, completed another miserable match for Durham who are still winless after seven games.

The home side were set a target of 525 after Lancashire extended their second innings to 441 for eight declared.

Durham were soon in trouble as they lost their first two wickets without a run on the board and, despite half-centuries from West Indian Sherwin Campbell and Phil Bainbridge, they were finally dismissed for 179.

Ian Austin followed his knocks of 95 not out and 91 with four for 33 to complete a fine match.

At Bristol, Tony Wright (51) and Mark Alleyne (71) added 79 for the fifth wicket to take Gloucestershire to within striking distance of the Sussex target of 236.

With three wickets left in hand the home side were just 12 runs short but, in a flurry of excitement, ED Giddins and West Indian Vasbert Drakes bowled Sussex to a narrow win.

Leaders Yorkshire enjoyed

another good day against title-holders Warwickshire thanks to some inspired play from fast bowler Darren Gough — with the bat.

Gough, who lost his England place for the first Test against India, followed the four for 66 he took in the first innings with a knock of 121, his maiden first-class century, as Yorkshire reached 508.

It gave them a lead of 202 and by the close they had further improved their chances of a fourth championship win this

season by reducing Warwickshire to 126 for four.

New England Test bowler Alan Mullally made a career best 68 and shared in a last wicket partnership of 105 as Leicestershire recovered to 411 in their first innings against Surrey.

Their fightback continued as Surrey, leading by 41 on the first innings, collapsed to 106 for five at the close, only first innings century-maker Mark Butcher holding firm with 66.

Apart from Gough there were two other centuries in



DARREN GOUGH

the championship. At Swansea, Steve James made up for his first innings duck with 100 not out as Glamorgan reached 275 for three against Somerset, a useful lead of 247.

At Chelmsford, Northamptonshire continued their fightback against Essex after Richard Montgomery (120) and 19-year-old David Roberts (73) put together a partnership of 185 which took them to 419 for seven in their second innings. Northants lead by 325 going into the last day.

### SA sink Malawi

JOHANNESBURG, June 16: Two goals from striker Shaun Bartlett set South Africa on their way to a crushing 3-0 victory in the second leg of their World Cup first round qualifier against Malawi on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Any chance Malawi had of recovering from the 1-0 first leg defeat in Balytyre two weeks ago disappeared as early as the fourth minute when Bartlett collected a through ball and rifled a close range shot between goalkeeper Shwetliff Kuwandala's legs.

Midfielders Doctor Khumalo and Eric Tinkler both came close to adding to the lead as South Africa mounted wave after wave of attacks.

In the 38th minute, John 'Shoes' Moshoeu skipped two tackles on the right before landing a pinpoint far post cross on the head of Lazio defender Mark Fish who made it 2-0.

### Soccer Yeltsin's top priority

MOSCOW, June 16: Russian President Boris Yeltsin was planning to take his mind off the presidential elections on Sunday by watching Russia's crucial Euro '96 match against Germany on television, reports Reuter.

"We need to win," he told reporters on his way into the polling station. "It's a very important match."