

England squad for 2nd Test

LONDON, June 17: England announced their squad on Sunday for the second Test against India which starts at Lord's on Thursday.

SQUAD Michael Atherton (captain), Nick Knight, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Graeme Hick, Ronnie Irani, Jack Russell, Chris Lewis, Dominic Cork, Min Patel, Alan Mullally, Peter Martin.

Nat'l Bank v'ball final Thursday

Sports Reporter

Holders Bangladesh Rifles will take on last year's runners up Titas Club in the title-deciding encounter of the National Bank Premier Division volleyball league at the Indoor Stadium, Mirpur, on Thursday afternoon.

Both BDR and Titas Club are unbeaten in the ten-team league with tallies of 24 points from eight matches; their last league encounter will determine the championship.

On the other hand, East End Boys Club, who have secured only nine points, the least among the ten teams, have been relegated to the First Division from next season.

Points Table

Teams	8	8	0	24	0	24
Titas Club	8	8	0	24	1	24
WDB	9	6	3	18	13	21
Sonali Bank	9	6	3	19	15	21
FRB	9	5	4	19	13	19
Police AC	9	5	4	16	14	19
Brothers Union	9	2	7	11	21	13
Bangladesh Bank	9	2	7	9	21	13
Dhaka Green Club	9	2	7	8	24	13
East End Boys Club	9	0	9	1	27	9

Soccer injurious to health!

SHANGHAI, June 17: Watching live soccer matches from Euro '96 in the middle of the night has caused factory accidents and a rise in heart and high blood pressure problems in Shanghai, the city's Liberation Daily said on Monday, reports Reuter.

On June 10, two accidents occurred in a factory in the west of the city, injuring two workers, both of whom were discovered to be exhausted after watching games on television during the night and unable to concentrate properly, it said.

In addition, the Liberation Daily said, city hospitals have reported a rise in the number of soccer fans coming in as patients complaining of heart problems and high blood pressure.

It quoted medical workers as saying that the matches were exciting the spectators and causing them to lose sight of the proper balance between work and sleep.

Shanghai television channels are carrying live broadcasts of the Euro '96 games, in which the best nations in Europe are playing to decide the continent's top team.

Hill's fifth

MONTREAL, June 17: Damaon Hill took the lead for the last time on the 36th lap and went on to his fifth victory of the season Sunday in the Canadian Grand Prix, reports AP.

Williams teammate and local favourite Jacques Villeneuve finished second, about five seconds behind. Villeneuve trailed by more than 30 seconds at one point. He reduced the gap to about 13 seconds when Hill pitted and closed through the final several laps.

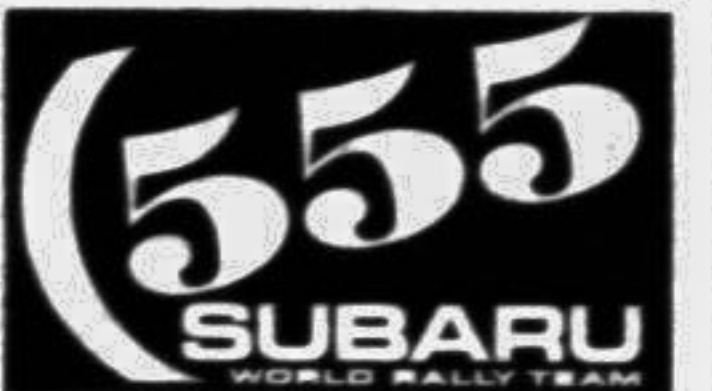
Jean Alesi finished third nearly a lap behind in his Benetton ahead of David Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen.

Eriksson stays on course

555 Subaru world rally team driver, Kenneth Eriksson, has continued to dominate the second day of the 1996 Petronas Rally Malaysia, trading fastest stage times on all but one of Sunday's stages with teammate Piero Liatti to maintain his lead, says a press release.

Leading the filed away from the start ramp in Kuala Lumpur Kenneth eased himself into the first competitive section to maintain a comfortable 1 minute 9 second lead over this nearest rival. By the second stage, the Swede was in full swing, secure in the knowledge that his lead was unlikely to be challenged.

Piero Liatti, set a blistering



pace on the first competitive section of the day, finishing the stage a staggering 10 seconds faster than the Swede to start his attack on second placed man, Richard Burns.

Having consistently been 1 second faster per kilometre all day, the Italian then dramatically rolled out of the event on the final competitive section of the day (SS23).

Leg 2 of the third round of the Asia-Pacific Rally Championship has been considerably shortened; only 5 of the scheduled 13 stages being run. Following concerns over stage security, the FIA safety observer took the decision to cancel selected sections to ensure the safety of the remaining international crews.

US Cup goes to Mexico



PASADENA, California, June 17: Mexico won the US Cup on Sunday, after playing to a 2-2 draw with the United States in a thrilling and sometimes ill-tempered finale to the four-nation soccer tournament, reports Reuter.

The Mexicans, who have now failed to beat their neighbours in five matches, scored



John Harkes (L), the US workhorse locked in aerial tussle with Raul Lara of Mexico during the USA Cup final in Pasadena, California on June 16. Mexico won in the tiebreaker after the teams were locked 2-2. AFP/UNB photo

in the last minute of each half and appeared to be heading for a win, when US midfielder Thomas Dooley nodded in the equaliser in the time added on for stoppages.

The United States, which beat Ireland last week before losing to Bolivia, finished third in the tournament on goal difference behind the Irish.

Playing for the first time at the Rose Bowl since their remarkable run to the second

round of the World Cup in 1994, the Americans were saved by goalkeeper Brand Friedel, who made several brave saves to thwart the Mexicans, who were cheered by a partisan crowd of more than 92,000.

But it seemed over for Friedel in the last minute of each half when substitute Cuauhtemoc Blanco's shot bounced off American defender Marcelo Balboa and squeezed inside the far post.

Incredibly, the Americans stormed back and a corner on the right was headed into the box by Brian McBride for Balboa to head on and Dooley beat Jorge Campos as time ran out.

The game was marred by dangerous tackling and the referee handed out six yellow cards - four to the United States.

The Americans went ahead in the 34th minute when captain John Harkes crossed from the right wing. Dooley missed a header, but the ball dropped to Eric Wynalda inside the box and he volleyed past Campos.

Mexico tied it well into time added on for injuries in the first half as Rafael Garcia's left-foot free-kick screamed through the American defensive wall and past a diving Friedel.

Friedel twice made saves on Luis Garcia in first half, keeping the score level into the 55th minute, when the dangerous Mexican forward broke through and fired from 20 meters.

The big goal keeper, who played for Galatasaray in the Turkish league last season, dived to push the ball onto the bar, from where it bounced to safety.

The match was bad tempered from the start, and after barely two minutes there was almost a bench-clearing brawl as all the players, including goalkeepers, pushed and shoved each other in the centre circle.

The Mexicans, coached by former US national coach Bora Milutinovic, had not beaten the Americans in their previous four meetings, including a humiliating 4-0 loss in this tournament last year.

Kamsky falters further

ELISTA, Russia, June 17: A slumping Gata Kamsky lost his second straight game with pieces Sunday on a bad blunder, falling to Anatoly Karpov in only 29 moves to slip behind 4-2 in their FIDE World Chess Championship, reports AP.

The victory was worth one point to 45-year-old Karpov and put him in a strong position to defend his crown. The first player to reach 10 points wins the championship plus 937,500 dollars. The loser gets 562,500 dollars.

Karpov's chief assistant, American Grand Master Ron Henley, said the 22-year-old Kamsky did not respond well to Karpov's choice of Petroff's Defence - the first time the Russian used anything other than his favourite Caro-Kann Defence.

Unable to mount a strong attack on Karpov's king - unusually placed in the centre of the board - Kamsky began to drift, moving one of his bishops away from defending key squares around his king.

In a seemingly innocuous position on the 27th move, Kamsky then retreated his other bishop, offering to trade off the rooks and reach a drawn position.

But instead of exchanging pieces, Karpov thrust his rook deep into white's position, simultaneously threatening Kamsky's bishops and his king.

Kamsky resigned two moves later after 3 hours, 25 minutes of play.

The championship is being held in Elista, capital of the southern Russian republic of Kalmykia, where FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov is the regional leader.

Gari Kasparov of Russia, who holds the title of the breakaway Professional Chess Association, is widely regarded as the true world champion.

The seventh game of the scheduled 20-game match is scheduled for Tuesday.

McGrath tames Tauziat

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 17: America's Meredith McGrath won her third WTA Tour title on Sunday when she upset second seed Nathalie Tauziat of France 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the DFS Classic women's grass-court tournament, reports Reuter.

The 10th seed upstaged the top three seeds on the way to winning the title, having eliminated third seed Natasha Zvereva of Belarus in the third round and top seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy in the semi-finals.

"When I started the tournament this week, I was just hoping to win my first-round match," McGrath said. "I wasn't thinking of winning the title."

"I cannot ever remember winning a match at Birmingham before this week and I've been coming here for at least six years."

Tauziat was within sight of victory when she led 3-2 in the second set and had three break points in the sixth game, but McGrath fought back and broke through in the seventh game to take the set 6-4.

Games went with service until 2-2 in the final set, but then came five successive breaks as both players repeatedly missed their first serves and were wary of coming to the net.

But, leading 5-4, McGrath grabbed match point with a service winner and then Tauziat struck a backhand into the net to give the American the title in two hours and six minutes.

Graf to rest bad knee

BRUEL, Germany, June 17: World women's tennis number one Steffi Graf announced her withdrawal on Monday from the WTA Eastbourne Open, due to start in England on Tuesday, due to aggravated tendinitis in her knee, reports AP.

The German has nevertheless guaranteed her participation at Wimbledon, held from June 24 to July 7.

Graf is due in London on Thursday to begin her preparation for the event which she has won six times.

China's great expectations

BEIJING, June 17: China is hoping for Olympic gold this year in women's distance running and its other usual strong sports - table tennis, diving, gymnastics and shooting, sports officials said Monday, reports AP.

After long and grueling preparations, China hopes to keep the No 4 place in the medals tally that it earned in Barcelona four years ago. It holds out little hope for overtaking the United States, Germany and Russia.

Most of the 200 women and 110 men who will compete for China in the summer Games have been training since late 1994, the longest pre-Olympics preparation ever in China, said Yuan Weimin, vice president of the Chinese Olympic delegation.

To prepare for Atlanta's heat and humidity, Chinese judo athletes have been training in a plastic tent, badminton players have been practicing without air conditioning and swimmers and gymnasts have gone to Atlanta early, said another sports official, Li Furong, at a news conference.

Becker spoils Stefan's party



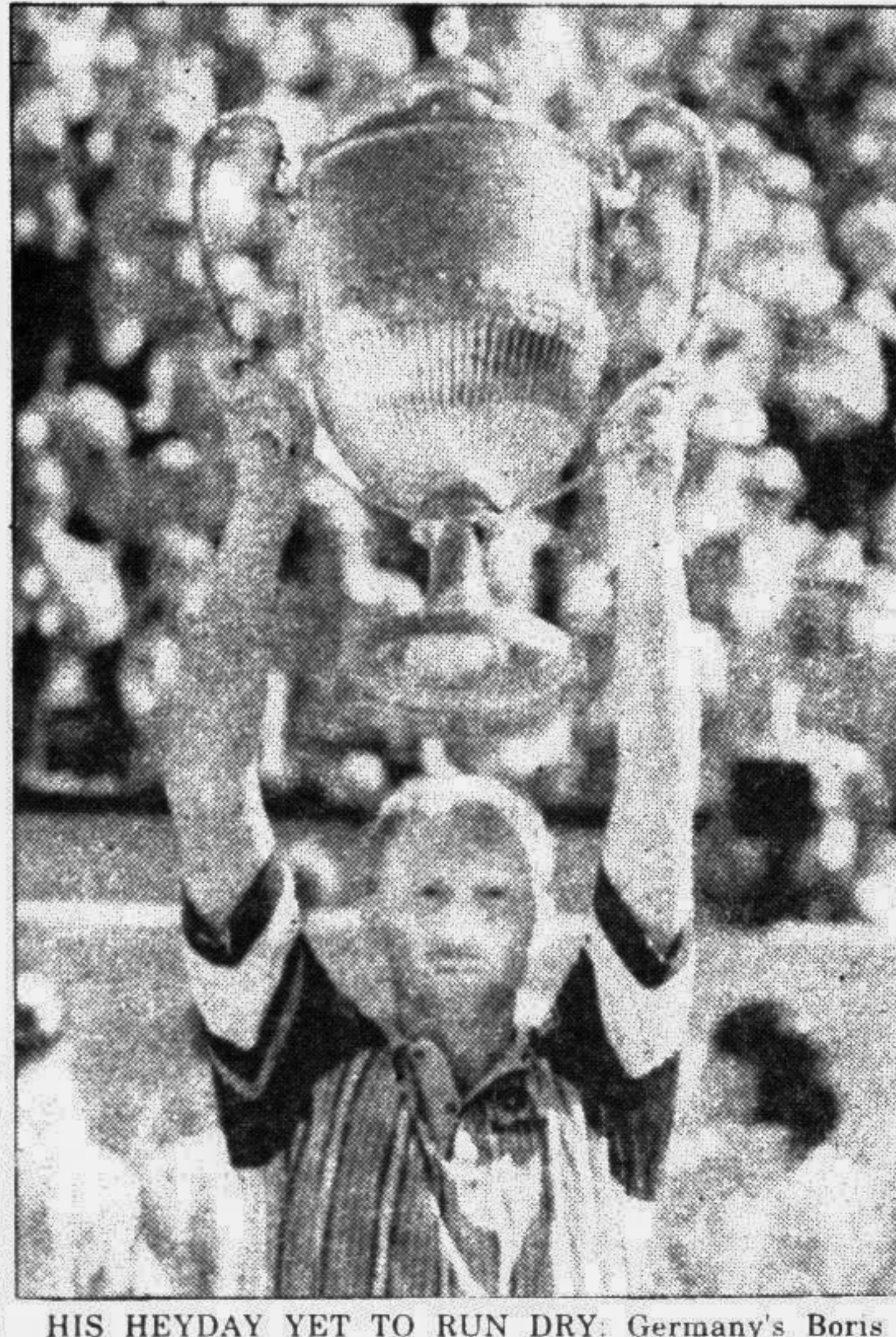
LONDON, June 17: Boris Becker celebrated a happy anniversary at Queen's Club on Sunday and matched a record held by John McEnroe, reports Reuter.

The 28-year-old German second seed beat old adversary Stefan Edberg 6-4, 7-6 on the 11th anniversary of his first grass court title won here as a

17-year-old in 1985.

That turned out to be a prelude to the first of his three Wimbledon titles just three weeks later when he became that championship's youngest men's winner.

His 25th triumph in 35 meetings with Edberg brought him alongside McEnroe as the only player to capture this title four times. He won previously in 1985, 1987 and 1988.



HIS HEYDAY YET TO RUN DRY: Germany's Boris Becker holds the trophy aloft after sending Stefan Edberg packing in the Queen's Club tournament on June 16. The australian German denied Edberg his farewell trophy here with a 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) win. — AFP/UNB photo

Becker won the championship without dropping a set, becoming the first player to do so since Edberg in 1991.

It was Becker's third victory over Edberg in this event. The first one came in the 1988 final, but the Swede gained revenge three weeks later by beating the German at Wimbledon.

Edberg also lost to Becker here in the 1990 semifinals, but again went on to win Wimbledon.

The London-based Edberg, seeded 14th in his last appearance in the event before he retires at the end of the year, had beaten top seed Thomas Muster in Saturday's semifinals and Becker expressed his respect for the Swede afterwards.

"You've been a rival, a friend, somebody who has shared the spotlight with me for a long time - truly the best ambassador I've ever seen for tennis," Becker told Edberg at the victory ceremony.

Becker, the Australian Open champion, missed the French Open because of a thigh injury but has shown this week the three-week layoff has not hurt his game.

The German won the only break of the opening set in the seventh game, then showed his mettle in the next game when he came back from 15-40 to hold serve before going on to take the set in 35 minutes.

Becker fought back from the same situation in the second game of the second set, hitting a superb volley winner off a vicious Edberg drive to save the game.

He then broke Edberg to love in the 11th game to edge towards victory, only for the 30-year-old Swede to summon up one last burst of courage to break back.

On the first point of the tie-break, Edberg set the tone by double-faulting, before finally surrendering with a wide forehand service return.

"After the match I told Boris, 'I'll see you in two weeks,' Edberg said.

Boris said, you mean three weeks. I said, 'Right, three weeks, in the Wimbledon final.'"

Batten gets into groove



ATLANTA, June 17: World record holder Kim Batten, looking forward to an Olympic showdown with 1992 gold medalist Sally Gunnell, ran the fastest women's 400-metre hurdles of the year on Sunday in an impressive showing by American hurdlers at the US Olympic trials, reports Reuter.

Batten, who has been hampered by foot and ankle problems this spring, won in 53.81 seconds to lead world silver medalist Tonja Buford-Bailey and Olympic silver medalist Sandra Farmer-Patrick to the top three times of the season.

Newcomer Bryan Bronson then posted the fastest men's time of the year, 47.98 seconds.

"She's a great competitor," Batten said of Gunnell. "But I'm not going to bow down to her."

In 1993, I took her world record. In 1996, I feel I'm going to be the Olympic champion."

Batten failed to make the US team for Barcelona, where Gunnell claimed gold. An injured Gunnell was absent from the 1995 World Championships as Batten lowered the Briton's world record to 52.61 seconds with Buford-Bailey

one-hundredth of a second behind.

Buford-Bailey clocked 53.92 seconds Sunday, with Farmer-Patrick third in 54.07 seconds.

In the men's race, Bronson went over the last hurdle even with world champion Derrick Adkins and then dramatically won the run-in.

"I thought if I could close at hurdle 10 I could outprint him at the end," said Bronson, a former US collegiate champion whose time was a personal best.

Adkins, the hometown favourite, finished in 48.18 seconds with Calvin Davis taking the final US spot in 48.32 seconds.

The top three finishers in the trials qualify for the Atlanta Olympics next month.

American record-holder Lawrence Johnson survived technical problems to become the first black US Olympian in the pole vault. He cleared 5.80 metres.

World champion Michael Johnson had an easier time, looping through the second round of the men's 400 metres in 45.1 seconds.

"Today I wanted to work as little as possible," said Johnson, who was second in his race. "The strategy was not to do anything but advance to

the next round."

Top time in the event came from Alvin Harrison, who won his race in a lifetime best of 44.66 seconds. Maicel Malone set the pace in the women's second round with a time of 50.62 seconds.

The time British Olympian Ronald Bradstock kept alive a slim hope of making his first US team despite finishing fifth in the javelin final at 77.24 metres.

An American citizen since 1995, Bradstock is only one of three US throwers to meet the Olympic standard of 80 metres this year. He could make the team if third place finisher Breau Greer and fourth finisher Dave Stephens do not obtain the standard by July 16.

Yeltsin's double trouble

MOSCOW, June 17: Russia's 3-0 defeat against Germany in the European Soccer Championship on Sunday could demoralise voters and be a factor in the outcome of the Presidential election, an electoral official said, reports Reuter.

Some voters returned to Moscow to watch the match live on television after spending the day at their dachas (country homes) and had planned to vote after the match.

"The one thing which troubles me in the result of the soccer match which could seriously demoralise voters," Dmitry Oreshkin, an analyst for the Central Electoral Commission, told Russian television.

"It is serious. Such little things influence people's behaviour and in this case the figures could be a bit lower (than expected)," he said, predicting a turnout of about 70 per cent.

That could work against President Boris Yeltsin. His campaign team wants a high turnout because communist rival Gennady Zyuganov's supporters are considered more disciplined and committed to voting than the "democrats."

Russian ready to defend WBC title

TOKYO, Japan, June 17: Undeclared Russian champion Yuri Arbachakov, fighting out of Japan, will defend his World Boxing Council flyweight title against Japan's Takato Toguchi on Aug. 26, his manager said Monday, reports AP.

Arbachakov, the first fighter from the former Soviet Union to win a professional world title, will fight Toguchi in a 12-round bout at the Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Arena in downtown Tokyo, manager Mack Kanehira said at a news conference.

It will be the 29-year-old Arbachakov's ninth defense of the title he won from Muangthai Kittikassam of Thailand on June 23, 1992, in Tokyo with an eighth-round knockout.

Kanehira said Arbachakov has been training in Kyrgyzstan since last Thursday.

Toguchi, 25, is the WBC's No. 10 contender.

Black back in business



BIRMINGHAM, England, June 17: Former European champion Roger Black set a British 400 metres record on Sunday when he clocked 44.39 second on the third and final day of the British Olympic trials, reports Reuter.

Black broke the four-year-old mark of 44.47 seconds set by David Grindly and only American world record holder Butch Reynolds has run faster this year.

Black was an early leader in a fiercely competitive race and held his form off the final bend despite being pressed hard by European gold medalist DuAine Ladejo and Ian Thomas.

Ladejo finished second in a personal best of 44.66 seconds, with Thomas third in

44.69 seconds. Black, 30, was an outstanding runner as a teenager and in his early 20s. He set a then British best of 44.59 seconds in 1986 but despite a 1991 World Championship silver medal has endured years of injury problems.

"I'm delighted to have the British record back again and to have set it on British soil," said Black. "I have not been this healthy for years."

In a news conference afterwards, Ladejo immediately beat Black 1,000 pounds sterling (1,500 dollars) that he would improve on Black's best before the end of the year.

Sally Gunnell showed that she will not give her Olympic 400 metres hurdles title up without a fight winning in 54.65 seconds, her best time

of the season.

Tessa Sanderson, the 1984 Olympic women's javelin champion, qualified for her sixth Olympics producing a winning throw of 62.88 metres in the opening round.

Kelly Holmes, a world silver medalist last year, added the 1,500 metres title to the 800 she won on Saturday.

Holmes, 26, who won in four minutes 8.14 seconds, is unsure whether she will attempt both events in Atlanta.

"At the moment I am leaning towards doing just the 800 metres but if I am not keeping anyone out of the team I will make my decision when I get to the Olympics," she said.

John Regis, an Olympic finalist four years ago, won the 200 metres in 20.54 seconds, the same time as Linford Christie who had to settle for second after a close study of the photo-finish.

Christie, who has until July 1 to declare whether he will defend his Olympic 100 metres title next month, said he was unlikely to run the 200 if he went to Atlanta.

"I was just doing this event for fun today," he said.

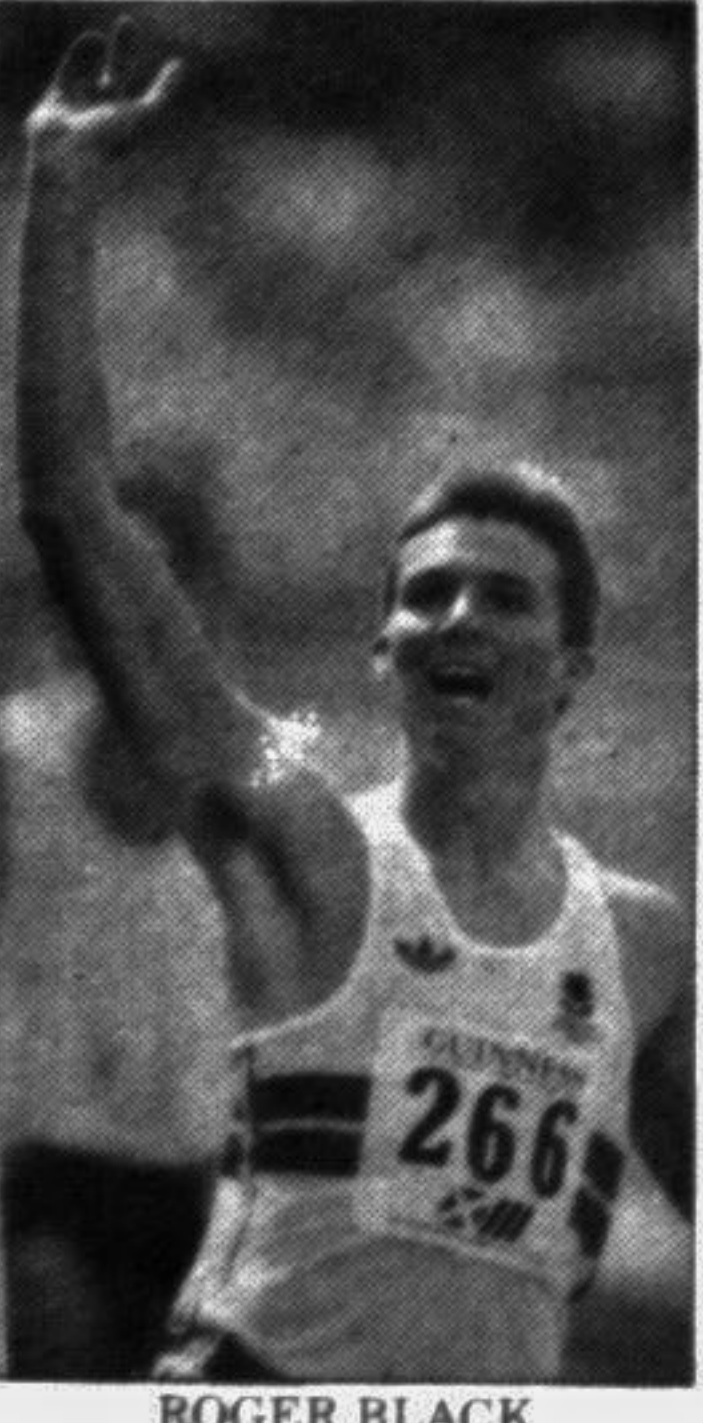
The 36-year-old Briton also explained why he was keeping the public and his opponents in suspense about his Olympic intentions.

"There is a lot more I need to do," he said. "I have to feel happy with myself and at the moment I am not. There are improvements I have to make."

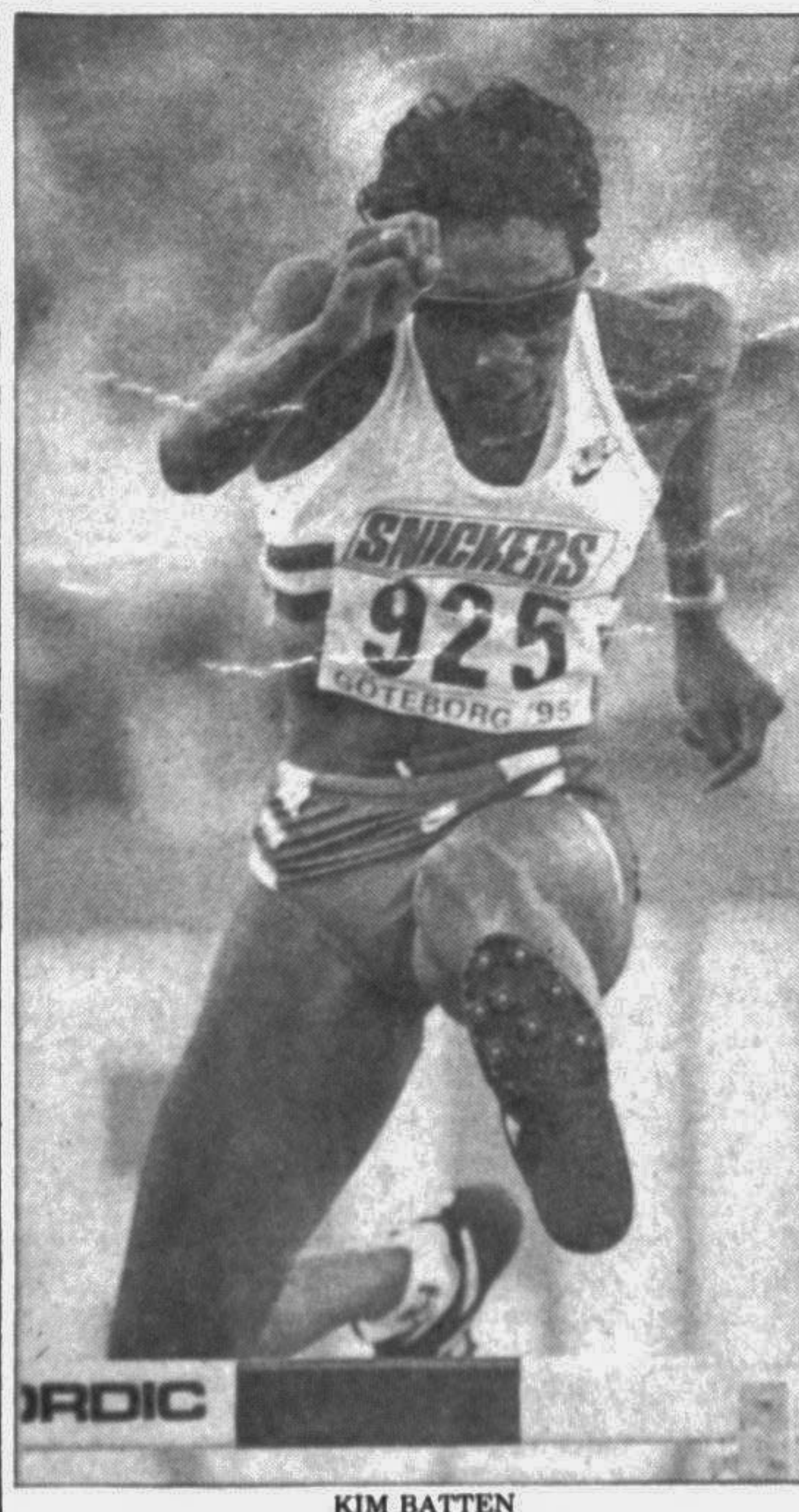
"I won't go just to make up the numbers. I must be able to do justice to myself and the people who support me."

"What I did this weekend didn't tell me anything, apart from the fact that I'm a tough son-of-a-gun."

There is only one way I train early, said a hard. I'm always in good shape, but I need to do better."



ROGER BLACK



KIM BATTEN