

BITING THE DUST! US Olympic legend Carl Lewis fights for his place in the long jump team during US track and field trials in Atlanta on June 17.

# Carl's labour of love

ATLANTA, June 18: Is eight-time gold medalist Carl Lewis in danger of failing to make the Olympic team? The number's say yes, Lewis says no.

Lewis, who already has failed to qualify in the 100 and is vague about his commitment to competing in the 200, struggled in the long jump Monday before qualifying for the final at the US track and field trials, reports AP.

Lewis, long jump champion in the last three Olympics, finished sixth in the qualifying round with a best leap of 26 feet, 4 inches (8 meters). In his prime, Lewis often jumped farther than 28 feet (8.5 metres).

"I was relaxed today. I wasn't aggressive," Lewis said. "I didn't want to do anything to get hurt. My calf cramped up two days ago (in the 100 final)."

John Godina became the first American track and field athlete to qualify for two Olympic events when he placed second to Anthony Washington in the men's discus. Godina was second to Randy Barnes in the shot put

Saturday.

Michael Johnson, Butch Reynolds and Quincy Watts all advanced easily to Wednesday's final of the men's 400. Alvin Harrison had the best time of 44.43 in Monday's semifinals.

Lewis, startled before his first jump when an errant hammer throw attempt landed near the long jump runway while he was preparing to take off, said his problems Monday were mostly technical and correctable.

"Today I didn't want to get too crazy," Lewis added. "I didn't think there were any statements to make."

But with a strong field that includes two-time world champion Mike Powell, Mike Conley, Erick Walder and Kareem Streete-Thompson, it may be a struggle for Lewis to finish in the top three in Wednesday night's long jump final.

Only the top three in each event at the trials make the Olympics.

If Lewis fails to qualify in the long jump, he still is entered in the 200 this weekend, but would have to be considered a long shot in that event.

And even if Lewis failed to qualify in all of his events, he still

could become the first American male track and field athlete to make five Olympic teams if he is selected by coaches to run on the 400-metre relay.

That would require the coaches to select a sprinter who finished eighth in the 100, passing over several runners who beat Lewis.

In the discus, Washington had a winning throw of 216 feet, 1 inch (65.9 metres) on his first attempt. Godina, world champion in the shot put, had a best throw of 211-10 (64.6 feet). Adam Setliff qualified for the third spot on the US team at 207-7 (63.3 metres).

Johnson eased through his 400 semifinal heat in 44.81, finishing second to Harrison, who has set personal bests in all three rounds of the competition so far. Reynolds ran 44.58 and Watts finished in 45.10.

Harrison's twin brother, Calvin, missed qualifying for the final by one-hundredth of a second.

"It was a pretty easy race I'm happy I didn't have to put out more," Johnson said. "Not having expended a lot of energy so far will help me in the final."

# Slaney keeps her balance

ATLANTA, June 18: Mary Slaney, the heartbreak kid of American Olympians, made an emotional comeback Monday by qualifying for the 1996 Games at 5,000 metres in a race which early threatened to repeat her 1984 Olympic disaster, reports Reuter.

With about 300 metres to go, Slaney was clipped on the heel by Amy Rodolph.

Unlike the 1984 Olympic 3,000-metres, where Slaney fell in a heap after tangling with Zola Budd, however, the 37-year-old veteran righted her stride and went on to finish second in 15:29.39.

The largely tactical race was won by Lynn Jennings in 15:28.18. Rodolph took the third and final spot for the event on the US Olympic team in 15:29.91.

"It feels great," said Slaney after charging back from fifth place with about two laps to go to claim second. "I'm glad it's over. It's a relief because I wanted it a lot. A year ago, I didn't think it was going to happen. And it happened."

"It was a long shot to be here and even a longer shot to make the team," Slaney admitted. "I feel there is a weight off my shoulders."

Her famous fall in Los Angeles was just the most dramatic in a series of competitive disappointments for the off-in-

jured Slaney.

She expected to make the US Olympic team as early as 1976 when still known as Mary Decker, but a shin injury forced her out of the competition. Then she won the 1,500 metres at the 1980 US Olympic trials only to be caught up in the politics of the US boycott of the Moscow Games.

By 1983, she had become the world's dominant female middle distance runner, sweeping the 1,500 and 3,000 metres at the World Championships. But the picture of her pain and anguish a year later in Los Angeles, became one of the most poignant associated with any Olympic Games.

Slaney rebounded in 1985, setting American records in the 800 and 1,500 metres. But in 1988 in Seoul there was no Olympic redemption as Slaney finished a disappointing eighth in the 1,500 and 10th over 3,000 metres. She failed even to qualify for the American team in those events in 1992.

"You always think positive," said Slaney, who will also attempt to qualify for the 1,500 at the US trials.

"Typically, when I'm feeling

well, I don't have self-doubts. But I think all the stuff piled up over the last few years, and not having raced to the potential that I know I can, you have doubts."

Her age, she said, is irrelevant now that she is healthy again. "People think I'm a little older than I am because I've been in the sport for a very long time."

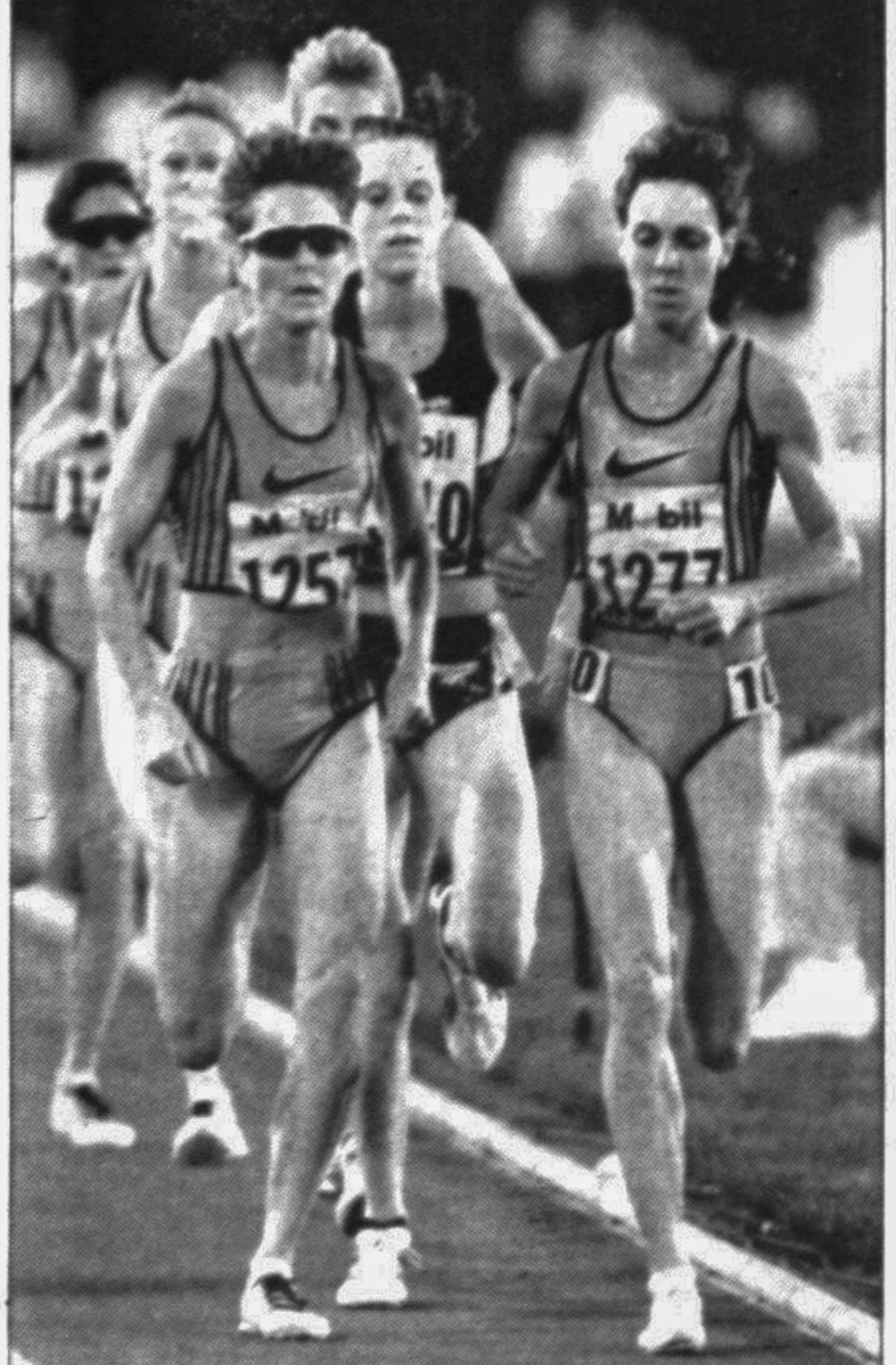
Slaney said she had a momentary flashback to 1984 when she tangled with Rodolph.

"At the top of the turn, I was just getting my momentum going into the turn and my foot got caught. To be honest, I don't know by who or what. I just wasn't sure what was going on, and I was trying not to fall and to keep going."

And keep going is just what Slaney has in mind as she strives for an elusive place on the Olympic medals podium.

"Obviously, I need to improve a lot between now and the actual 5,000 at the Games, but I plan to get out there and do my best," she promised.

"And I realise that's going to be good enough. My best is going to be good enough."



Long distance runners Lynn Jennings (L) and Mary Slaney striding towards Olympic qualification during the 5,000 metres final of the US track and field meeting in Atlanta on June 17.

# Coach stands by Edwards

LONDON, June 18: British Olympic coach Malcolm Arnold said on Monday that he is confident world triple jump champion Jonathan Edwards will compete at Atlanta, despite his omission from the 72-strong squad, reports AFP.

Edwards missed the weekend trials in Birmingham due to heel and knee problems.

But coaching chief Malcolm Arnold insisted: "Jonathan is a wonderful athlete. I have enormous confidence in him and I'm sure he is going to do well in the Games."

"He will be competing again in Helsinki and Gateshead before our deadline and when he proves his fitness he will go straight into the team."

Chairman of selectors David Cropper said: "It is obviously difficult with an athlete of Jonathan's quality not to put his name first on the team sheet. But he did not make himself available for the trials, along with others, and we have to be consistent with our policy. Jonathan is not the one who gives us a problem."

Edwards did not seem overly perturbed by his omission from the squad.

"I could probably have competed in the trials, but it might have aggravated my heel. I'm confident I will be at the Olympics," he commented.

# Illingworth disciplined

LONDON, June 18: England chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth was fined, 2,000 pounds (3,000 dollar) Tuesday by the Test and County Cricket Board for criticising former England pace bowler Devon Malcolm in a book, reports AP.

The TCCB also reprimanded Illingworth for revealing details of confidential selection discussions in his book "One-Man Committee," published in early June.

Malcolm, dropped from the England Test team after his fall-out with Illingworth during England's disastrous winter tour of South Africa, broke his tour contract by criticising Illingworth in a newspaper article.

Malcolm, who claimed he was verbally abused by Illingworth, escaped with a reprimand from the TCCB.

Illingworth was unhappy with the TCCB's reaction and the subsequent comments in his book were made as a result his desire to reply to Malcolm's criticism.

# Knight to miss 2nd Test

LONDON, June 18: England's opening batsman Nick Knight withdrew from the England Test squad Tuesday, just two days before the second Test against India is due to begin at Lord's, reports AP.

The left-hander was struck on the fourth knuckle of his right hand during England's eight-wicket first Test victory at Edgbaston.

The injury was expected to heal in time for the second Test, but after a lengthy net session followed by some catching practice on Wednesday, Knight was declared unfit.

"Unfortunately it's no go," said the Warwickshire opener.

Former England vice-captain Alec Stewart, who was axed from the England team after a poor winter series against South Africa, replaces Knight and resumes his opening partnership with captain Mike Atherton.

The 33-year-old will add some experience to England's fresh, new-look side which took a 1-0 lead in the series after Edgbaston. He has played 53 Tests. Only Atherton, with 57, has played more.

# Lewis, Gough hog headlines

LONDON, June 18: England all rounders Darren Gough and Chris Lewis bowed their sides to victory in the latest round of county championship matches on Monday, reports AP.

Gough, left out of the last two Test squads to play India, added to his maiden first class century on Saturday by taking two wickets to help Yorkshire beat champions Warwickshire by 10 wickets — opening up a 14-point lead at the top of the table.

Lewis, who until his excellent performance in the first Test against India has had a chequered Test career, took five wickets for 25 runs as Surrey beat one of his former employers Leicestershire by 108 runs — his best performance for his new county.

Yorkshire, beaten by Warwickshire in the Sunday League match, disposed of the final six Warwickshire wickets for a further 103 runs.

Openers marten Moxon and Michael Vaughan easily knocked off the required 28 runs to complete the win.

Yorkshire captain David Byas said: "Defeat in the Sunday League was a blow because we collapsed for no good reason and it was a good result the own away."

But we are keeping going pretty well in the championship — and beating the title holders must give us a welcome boost.

Lewis — who picked up only his third five-wicket haul in Test matches against India at Edgbaston earlier this month — took three of his five wickets in 11 balls at The Oval as Surrey easily held off Leicestershire's challenge.

The visitors, chasing 284 for victory off 56 overs, were skittled out for 175 to give Surrey a maximum 24 points.

Glamorgan off-spinner Robert Croft was also in the wickets, returning his best bowling figures of the season as Glamorgan claimed a 173-run success against Somerset at Swansea.

Set to score 327 after Glamorgan declared 45 minutes before lunch, Somerset were bowled out for 153, with Croft, a regular England A tourist, taking six for 78 off 33.2 overs.

Kent, who started the latest round of matches a point behind Yorkshire, could only manage a draw against Middlesex at Canterbury.

Set 299 to win in a minimum of 56 overs, the home side has looked well poised at 143 for two.

But with England spinner Phil Tufnell picking up three wickets in a marathon stint of 28 overs, Kent slumped to 164 for six and were thankful to England one-day international Mark Eatham (23no) and former England paceman Martin McCague (24) for seeing them through to 205 for six and the three extra points for a draw.

Worcestershire and Nottinghamshire are still looking to end a run of 12 championship matches without a win after their encounter ended in a tame draw.

The game at Cefnord also ended in a draw, with Essex, set an unlikely 389 in 78 overs, hanging on to reach the close at 204 for eight.

# Top guns in for a treat



PETE SAMPRAS

LONDON, June 18: Title holder Pete Sampras received a perilous draw for next week's Wimbledon on Tuesday with a possible second round match against the man who beat him in this year's Australian Open.

With so many of the big serve-and-volley players in the top half of the draw, second seed Boris Becker's task in the lower half has become simplified.

The German, three times the champion and in great form after his fourth Queen's Club title begins against Frenchman Jean-Philippe Fleurian, ranked 96th, and should be untroubled until he comes up against French 15th seed Arnaud Boetsch in the fourth round.

American Jim Courier and Swede Thomas Enqvist, seeded eighth and ninth, should battle for the right to play Becker in the quarterfinals.

French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the fifth seed, begins against British hopeful Tim Henman, world-ranked 61st.

Kafelnikov should progress to a fourth-round encounter against 11th seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa.

Third seed Andre Agassi, a surprise second round loser at the French, starts out against a qualifier and the 1992 champion will face another qualifier in the second round on the way to what should be a fourth-round clash against big American Todd Martin, the 13th seed.

Women's top seed and title holder Steffi Graf opens her bid for a seventh title against Czech Ludmila Rikerova and should avoid trouble until a fourth-round meeting with rising Swiss Martina Hingis, the 10th seed.

Sampras' draw is located all the way, with Croatian fourth seed Goran Ivanisevic in the second quarter and due to open against German Bernd Karbacher on the way to what could be a third meeting with the top seed in as many years.

Ivanisevic, beaten by Sampras in the 1994 final and in the semifinals last year, should move smoothly to the fourth round where he could face French Swiss Marc Rosset, the 14th seed who reached the French semifinals this month.

Stefi Graf, a two-time champion given 12th seed in

his last Wimbledon before he retires, has a tough opener against Frenchman Guy Forget and if he comes through that could again face American Michael Chang in the fourth round.

It was Chang, the sixth seed, who beat Ederberg in the Paris as he advanced to the quarter finals, avenging his defeat by the American in the 1989 final there.

If they do meet at Wimbledon, Ivanisevic should be the next hurdle.

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STEFFI GRAF

15-year-old who is seeded 16th.

But there will be great anticipation over her projected quarterfinal against another Czech, Jana Novotna, who so memorably wept on the shoulder of the Duchess of Kent after she lost the 1993 final to the German. Novotna is seeded sixth this time.

Third seed Conchita Martinez could be awaiting the survivor of Graf-Novotna but the 1994 champion has a rocky road to the later stages.

Italian Silvia Farina is her first opponent, then she could play talented American Lisa Raymond in the second round and another American, Lori McNeil, in round three.

McNeil, who has dropped to 47th in the rankings this year, claimed the notable scalp of Graf in the biggest upset of recent years in the first round in 1994, when she reached the semifinals.

Kimiko Date of Japan, seeded 12th, could be up next for the Spaniard with either Lindsay Davenport or Mary Pierce waiting in line in the quarters.

Second seed Monica Seles, the world joint number one who will be trying to win her first Wimbledon title, faces American Ann Grossman and her first seeded opponent rival should be south African Amanda Coetzer, seeded 14th.

German Anke Huber and American Mary Joe Fernandez are the other seeds in Seles's quarter.

Aranxta Sanchez-Vicario, beaten by Graf in last year's final and in this month's French final, and seeded fourth here, has the giant Dutch girl Brenda Schultz-McCarthy in her section with a possible quarterfinal against American Chanda Rubin.

# BAF aquatic

Three more swimming events of the BAF annual aquatic meet were finalised at the BN central swimming pool at Banani yesterday, reports BSS.

Those who won gold medals are Tajib Ali in 100m freestyle. Sergeant Rashid in 200m butterfly and light lieutenant Aaron in 100m backstroke.

# Seeding suits Stefan fine

WIMBLEDON, England, June 18: Stefan Edberg got promoted by Thomas Muster got demoted.

The Wimbledon seeding committee ignored the world rankings Monday to reward Edberg for his grass-court expertise and penalised Muster for his lack of it, report agencies.

Edberg was seeded No. 12, eight spots above his ranking, for his final appearance at the All England Club. Muster, ranked No. 2, was bumped down to seventh in the seedings.

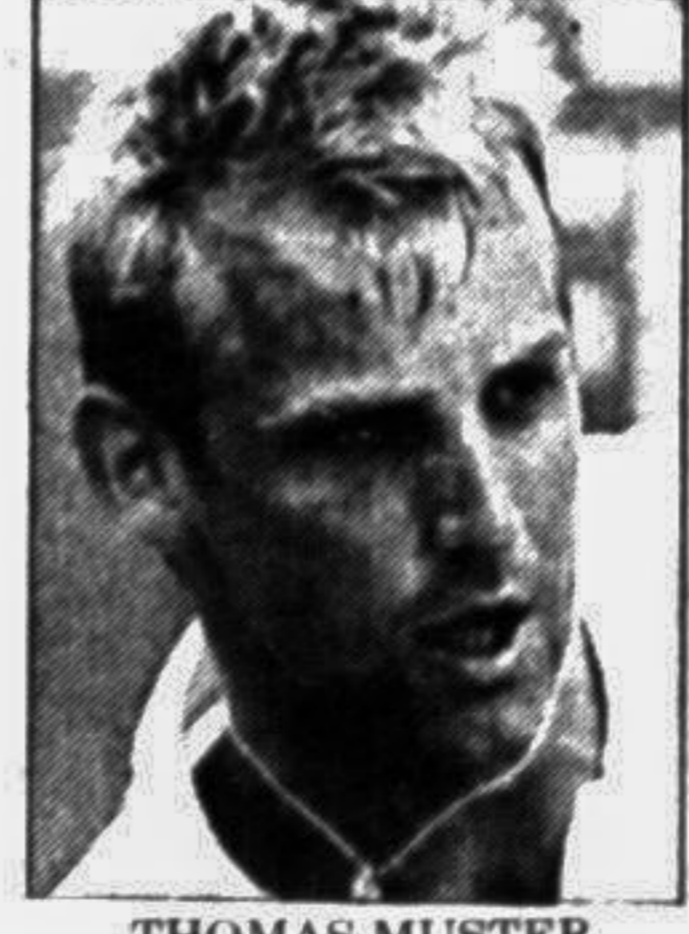
Graf, who pulled out of this week's Eastbourne tournament with a knee injury, was given the No. 1 seed even though she is co-No 1 with Seles in the world rankings. The two were co-seeded No 1 at the French Open earlier this month.

English bookmakers William Hill have quoted Sampras as 5-4 favourite ahead of Backer at 4-1 and Ivanisevic at 7-2.

In the women's competition, Graf is 8-15 favourite and Seles 3-1.

# SEEDINGS

- Men's singles:**
- 1. Pete Sampras (US)
  - 2. Boris Becker (Germany)
  - 3. Andre Agassi (US)
  - 4. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)
  - 5. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)
  - 6. Michael Chang (US)
  - 7. Thomas Muster (Austria)
  - 8. Jim Courier (US)
  - 9. Thomas Enqvist (Sweden)
  - 10. Michael Stich (Germany)
  - 11. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa)
  - 12. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)
  - 13. Todd Martin (US)
  - 14. Marc Rosset (Switzerland)
  - 15. Arnaud Boetsch (France)
  - 16. Cedric Pioline (France)
- Women's singles:**
- 1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
  - 2. Monica Seles (Spain)
  - 3. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
  - 4. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)
  - 5. Anke Huber (Germany)
  - 6. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
  - 7. Chanda Rubin (US)
  - 8. Lindsay Davenport (US)



THOMAS MUSTER

off having a ranking list for each surface.

But the seeding committee took into account Muster's unproven record on grass. He has never progressed past the first round in four previous appearances at Wimbledon, and has won only four matches on grass in his career — three of them at Queen's last week.

Wimbledon is the only one of the four Grand Slams which doesn't necessarily follow the ranking for its seedings.

Pete Sampras, the three-time defending champion and world's top-ranked player, was seeded No. 1, for the fourth successive year.

Boris Becker, a three-time champion, runner-up last year and winner at Queen's was seeded No. 2 — two spots above his ranking.

Andre Agassi, the 1992 champion, is No. 3, big-serving Croatian Goran Ivanisevic, a two-time Wimbledon finalist, is ranked No. 7 but was rewarded with the fourth seed.

French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who has an all-court game that could make him a contender at Wimbledon, is seeded fifth. Michael

# ATP's top 20 money-winners

MONACO, June 18: Leading prize-money winners as released by the ATP Tour on Monday, reports Reuter.

1. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia) 1,330,912 Dollars

2. Thomas Muster (Austria) 1,086,941

3. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 1,008,239

4. Pete Sampras (US) 742,231

5. Michael Chang (US) 724,632

6. Boris Becker (Germany) 689,980

7. Marc Rosset (Switzerland) 657,492

8. Jakob Hasek (Switzerland) 588,195

9. Marcelo Rios (Chile) 560,278

10. Andre Agassi (US) 559,526

11. Mark Woodforde (Australia) 547,029

12. Michael Stich (Germany) 541,994

13. Alberto Costa (Spain) 511,274

14. Richard Krajcek (Netherlands) 483,151

15. Paul Haarhuis (Netherlands) 464,246

16. Todd Woodbridge (Australia) 453,922

17. Jim Courier (US) 423,388

18. Guy Forget (France) 406,547

19. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) 403,573

20. Petr Korda (Czech Republic) 393,846

# Pioline sent packing

LONDON, June 18: French Open quarter-finalist Cedric Pioline's Wimbledon preparations suffered a serious setback on Monday when he was bundled out of the Nottingham Open in the first round by Russia's Alexander Volkov, reports Reuter.

The tournament's top seed lost the last 12 points to go down 6-2, 6-7, 6-3.

Pioline, a quarter-finalist at Wimbledon last year and in 1993, was in top form at the French Open earlier this month before bowing out to eventual runner-up Michael Stich.

A string of double faults and errors off the ground from the Frenchman gave Volkov the first set in just 30 minutes.

Pioline bounced back to take the second set but lost his range again in the decider, finally going down to a winning backhand return of serve by Volkov.

BSJWC body formed

A 13-member executive committee of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists and Writers Community (BSJWC) was formed at its biennial general meeting here yesterday, reports UNB.

Monwar Haque was retained as president while Mehdi Masud made the new general secretary of the BSJWC committee for next two years.

The following is the new BSJWC committee formed with majority decision of the members present:

President — Monwar Haque; Vice-presidents — Mahbubur Rahman and Javed Khasru; general secretary — Mehdi Masud; joint secretary — Saifur Rahman Chowdhury; assistant secretary — Aminul Kabir Ujjal; organising secretary — Saifur Hasan Duda; office secretary — Mizanur Rahman; treasurer — Shamsul Islam Kabir and sports and international affairs secretary — Masudur Rahman.

Members: Zulfikar Hossain, Zahid Hossain Khokon and GM Taslim.

# Muster's threat

VIENNA, June 18: World number two Thomas Muster may pull out of next week's Wimbledon after being seeded only seventh for the grass-court tournament, reports Reuter.

Muster's coach, Ronald Lettgeb, said on Tuesday that the Australian was very unhappy about the low seeding.

"Never in the history of Wimbledon has a world number two and former number one been seeded so low. That's a subtle way of saying that they don't want him, Lettgeb told the Australian news agency AFP.