

Column One

Sports WHIZZ KID

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-44

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. July 5, 1996)

1. Boris Becker won his first Wimbledon tennis title in	1986	1988	1985
2. Sir Garry Sobers once played Sheffield Shield in Australia for	Victoria	Tasmania	South Australia
3. The winner of marathon gold in the 24th national athletics championship is	Solaiman	Younus	Serauddin
4. The new coach of West Indian cricket team is	Roberts	Marshall	Holding
5. The Fair Play Trophy of the Euro '96 was awarded to	Croatia	Czech Republic	England

Name _____

Class _____

School Address _____

Phone: (if any) _____

SPORTS TALK



Mike Tyson

(American heavyweight boxer)

"I hear he's saying everyone is afraid of him. Well, Mike Tyson is not afraid of him. I'm not afraid of anyone. Bring him on."

On being asked about his British rival Lennox Lewis.

Frankie's fantastic feat



LAUSANNE, Switzerland, July 4: Olympic favourite Frankie Fredericks overshadowed track superstar Michael Johnson for once as he matched the second-fastest 100m ever run at the Grand Prix meeting here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Fredericks missed the world record by just one hundredth of a second as he beat world champion Donovan Bailey, Olympic gold medalist Linford Christie and top American Dennis Mitchell to cross the line in 9.86sec.

The Namibian's time, recorded on the same track where Leroy Burrell ran his 9.85 sec two years ago, matched Carl Lewis' 1991 World Championships gold-medal performance in Tokyo.

Fredericks' feat just before Atlanta left Johnson in the shade, even though the United States 200 and 400m runner timed an awesome 43.66sec over one lap.

Astonishingly, Fredericks, who was followed in by Bailey (9.93) and Ato Boldon of Trinidad (9.94), might have gone even faster but he slowed up five metres out to begin his celebrations.

Christie, Fredericks' training partner, who has only just confirmed he will defend his title, was fifth in 10.04 while Mitchell was last.

Christie was also well beaten over 200m, fourth behind Boldon who won in a fine 19.85sec.

Only last month Fredericks ran a year's best 9.87 in Helsinki, confirming him as the man to beat at the Olympics ... if he decides to contest the shorter sprint at all.

The 28-year-old, a double silver medalist at Barcelona and regarded as a specialist over 200m at the start of the season, mistrusts the shorter event.

He said: "I feel confident over 200. In the 100, you make one little mistake and you are out."

But he revealed in Helsinki that, despite his reservations, he was considering attempting the double in Atlanta, a decision which seems almost inevitable after Wednesday's heroics.

Michael Johnson's run was almost as impressive, if only because he set off at a snail's pace, allowing the rest of the 400m field to run away from him.

Just after the halfway, however, the Texan moved up a gear, going close to compatriot Butch Reynolds' 1988 mark of 43.29.

Roger Black of Great Britain, the 1991 World Championships silver medalist, who

broke the British record with 44.39sec last month, did it again by this time posting 44.37 ahead of Darnell Hall.

The women's 100m went to American Gwen Torrence, the world champion going under 11sec again to win in 10.97. She was emulated by 110m hurdler Allen Johnson.

Johnson, also a winner at Gothenburg, timed 13.06 sec to beat 1993 champion Collin Jackson, although the Welshman gave a hint of a return to form after a series of injuries with a season's best 13.13 sec.

Maria Mutola, meanwhile, returned to winning form in the women's 800m.

Mutola won in 1min 58.16 but only got rid of world champion Ana Fidelia Quirot of Cuba over the last 50m. The Mozambican, however, will have been happy with the result after losing over 1,500m to Romanian Gabriela Szabo in Paris last week.

Another Cuban, Javier Sotomayor, proved the biggest loser of the night as he continued to struggle with a suspect knee. Sotomayor could only clear 2.28 in the high jump, an event won by Norwegian Steinar Hoen (2.31).

Nourredine Morceli, the triple 1,500m world champion, had to work hard for a victory in 3:30.99 while Marie-Joe Perrec of France, almost untouchable over the women's 400m, also had to dig deep to win in 49.45, the best time of 1996.

Tonya Buford, meanwhile, beat American compatriot and 400m hurdles champion Kim Batten for the second time in succession to win in 53.61. But the race spell disaster for Sally Gunnell of Britain.

Moore, capped 108 times for England and 91 times as captain, died of cancer in 1993. He was 31.

"It was a tremendous honour for Bobby to be recognised by FIFA," his widow Stephanie said after the ceremony. "I was very proud to collect the award. He would have been quietly proud to receive such an award."

Former US Secretary of State Kissinger, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for helping to end the Vietnam War, was also honoured.

"This is to acknowledge his support for football and his contribution to raising the visibility and credibility of the game in the US and to honour the part he played in ensuring the success of the 1994 World Cup," Blatter said.

Among others who received the Order of Merit were Brazilian Zico, who played in three World Cups and was South American player of the year three times, and Salif Keita of Mali, the first African player to succeed outside the continent.

NEW DELHI, July 4 (AFP): India's sports ministry on Thursday refused permission to six athletes, including former track Queen PT Usha, from taking part in the Atlanta Olympics because they did not meet qualifying standards, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The 32-year-old Usha, who ruled the Asian circuit in the eighties, was among the six athletes selected by Indian track and field officials earlier on Thursday to participate in the Centennial Games starting on July 19.

Usha was named as a reserve for the women's 4x400 metres relay team, comprising Shiny Wilson, Rosa Kutty, Jyotirmoy Sikdar and KM Beemamol. Former Asian 1,500m champion Bahadur Prasad was to be the sixth member of the squad.

But the sports ministry, which foots the travel bills for the Olympic contingent, cancelled their selection since none of them met qualifying standards set by the government. PTI reported, quoting a senior ministry official.

Usha, who narrowly missed an Olympic medal in the 400m hurdles at Los Angeles in 1984, refused to comment at the government's decision. But she said she had been looking forward to the Atlanta trip.

"I missed the previous Olympics at Barcelona, so I was keenly awaiting the trip to Atlanta to take in the atmosphere of the Olympics," Usha said.

Usha and the others may still go to Atlanta if the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) sticks to its earlier promise to fund those athletes rejected by the government. The IOA will meet on Friday to discuss the issue.

The IOA has recommended a 45-member contingent for the Olympics with the rejuvenated hockey team as the only seriously medal contenders. India have won eight Olympic hockey golds in the past, but the last was in Moscow in 1980.

MARSEILLE, France, July 4: A bid by German sports goods manufacturer Adidas to take over French football club Olympique Marseille has been accepted, the city's mayor Jean-Claude Gaudin said Thursday, reports AFP.

Adidas was one of three organisations to make an offer for the club, newly promoted to France's Division One and which has been run by the local council since July 1995.

The 1993 European Cup winners have spent the past two seasons in Division Two after being relegated for financial improprieties by its former president Bernard Tapie.

It was declared bankrupt and, when it first won promotion in 1995, it was told its books were still not in order and was forced to spend another season in Division Two before again winning the divisional title.

Tapie, a member of the European Parliament, has since also been found guilty of match-fixing.

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FIFA's gratitude to Moore, Kissinger

ZURICH, July 4: England's World Cup-winning captain Bobby Moore and Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr Henry Kissinger were honoured by FIFA on Wednesday for their contributions to soccer, reports Reuters.

Moore, described as "one of the greatest gentlemen the world of football has ever known" by FIFA general-secretary Sepp Blatter, was posthumously decorated with the international football federation's Order of Merit.

The gold award, world football's highest individual honour, was accepted by his widow Stephanie at the opening of FIFA's 50th congress in Zurich — almost 30 years to the day after Moore lifted the World Cup at Wembley.

His fame and reputation as an outstanding sportsman was known throughout the world. He was the golden boy of English football, FIFA official Keith Cooper said.

"He was an immaculate athlete and unrivalled in his ability to read the game. He was fearless and an inspiring leader and a model of fair play even in defeat."

Moore, capped 108 times for England and 91 times as captain, died of cancer in 1993. He was 31.

"It was a tremendous honour for Bobby to be recognised by FIFA," his widow Stephanie said after the ceremony. "I was very proud to collect the award. He would have been quietly proud to receive such an award."

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Usha & Co miss Atlanta bus?

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Adidas gets the green signal

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Tapie, a member of the European Parliament, has since also been found guilty of match-fixing.

Weah eager to join MLS



HEMPSTEAD, New York, July 4: George Weah, the overwhelming choice as the top soccer player in the world last year, said on Wednesday that he would like to play in the new US Premier league someday, reports Reuters.

The Liberian native, who is under contract with Italian league champions AC Milan for the next three years, said he wants to play for the New York/New Jersey Metrostars of the fledgling Major League Soccer (MLS).

"I'd be happy to play here," Weah said of the local MLS club while signing autographs for fans at a friend's African artifacts store. "I've got friends and family here."

The 30-year-old star owns home and a restaurant in the New York city area and his wife, Clara, who is from Brooklyn, would not mind a permanent homecoming.

Weah said he would like to join the Metrostars right away. But his transfer fee, which could range between \$2 million and \$5 million dollars, would be far too costly for the MLS.

"We'd love to have someone like George Weah. George Weah would be ideal for us," Metrostars general manager

Charlie Stillitano said. "We understand he is with one of the best clubs in the world. The chances of him coming next year is unrealistic. As the league grows, it's a realistic option in the future."



GEORGE WEAH

Weah's immediate plans are to fly to Jamaica for an African all-star team match against the Jamaican national team. He will then return to New York to play for the FIFA World All-Stars at Giants Stadium on July 14.

Despite troubles at home,

Weah has enjoyed a banner year on the pitch. In December, he was named the top European and the FIFA player-of-the-year.

"It put Africa on the map," Weah said. "I was the first African player to win the European award. For Africa, it's a great thing."

He then played for Liberia in the African Nation's Cup in January and went on to help Milan secure the Serie A crown.

Because of the violence and political unrest in his homeland — violence that recently saw his property destroyed and family members attacked following his statements that Liberia should be taken over by the United Nations — Weah currently is based in Abidjan, Ivory Coast and Accra, Ghana, where Liberia is forced to play its home games.

However his allegiance is unwavering. "Liberia is my country," he said. "Anything I can do to help the national team, the better."

Last month Weah helped Liberia beat Gambia 4-0 to overcome a 2-1 loss in the first leg of African World Cup qualifying as Liberia advanced to the next round.

Weah scored one goal, set up another and put up 50,000 to help finance his nation's qualifying campaign.

"I do my best to promote the national team. It's the only good team we have. We do our best to promote a good image for our country and set an example, so the politicians will lay down their arms," he said.

Weah would love nothing more than to see Liberia in the 1998 World Cup in France. "We'll try to do our best to get to the World Cup. We've got a great chance to qualify," he said.

"I've won a lot of awards. If our generation allows us to go to the World Cup, it would be great. Even if someone beats us 9-0, the idea is going there."

His other goal is to enjoy the political and professional freedom that is not possible in his homeland.

"In Africa there is not freedom of speech," he said. "I wish I was in America."

Injury bothers Gunnell

LONDON, July 4: Sally Gunnell sees a foot specialist today after breaking down in the Lausanne Grand Prix on Wednesday night, reports AFP.

The injury threatens to rule out her defence of the 400m hurdles title in Atlanta later this month.

Gunnell was optimistic that the damage to her left foot was not similar to last year's right heel problem, which required surgery.

FIFA'S TOP FIFTY

ZURICH, July 4: World champion Brazil continue to top the world soccer rankings in the latest list issued by FIFA on Wednesday, report agencies.

But the Brazilians have had their once sizeable lead slashed by newly crowned European champions Germany.

The biggest move among the top 30 nations was made by Euro '96 semifinalists England who move up 11 places to 13th.

France rose two spots to third, the Czech Republic climbed six spots to fourth and Italy rose two spots to seventh. The Netherlands is sixth, up from 13th.

RANKINGS		
Following are the top fifty rankings. () indicates end of 1995 positions.		
Country	Points	
1. Brazil (1)	69.00	23. Romania (11)
2. Germany (2)	64.48	24. Norway (10)
3. France (8)	60.73	25. Japan (31)
4. Czech Republic (14)	60.06	26. Switzerland (18)
5. Italy (3)	59.86	27. Egypt (23)
6. Netherlands (6)	59.85	28. Ivory Coast (20)
7. Sweden (13)	59.79	29. Chile (36)
8. Spain (4)	59.47	30. Scotland (26)
9. Russia (5)	59.17	31. Turkey (30)
10. Denmark (9)	56.33	32. Ecuador (55)
11. Portugal (16)	55.72	33. Morocco (38)
12. Colombia (15)	55.55	34. Trinidad and Tobago (57)
13. England (12)	55.18	35. Greece (34)
14. Mexico (12)	53.94	36. Bolivia (53)
15. Argentina (7)	53.50	37. Slovakia (35)
16. Zambia (25)	52.88	38. Uruguay (39)
17. US (19)	52.86	39. Cameroon (37)
18. South Africa (40)	52.45	40. Ireland (28)
19. Bulgaria (17)	52.39	41. Saudi Arabia (54)
20. Ghana (29)	52.35	42. Austria (39)
21. Tunisia (22)	50.96	43. Belgium (24)
22. Croatia (41)	50.61	44. Albania (38)
		45. Jamaica (56)
		46. Gabon (67)
		47. Nigeria (27)
		48. Israel (42)
		49. Honduras (49)
		50. Poland (33)



German goalkeeper Andreas Koepkeis, who is scheduled to undergo medical tests before signing a contract with Spanish giants FC Barcelona, caught in the middle by the local press on his arrival in the city on July 3.

A French renaissance



PARIS, July 4 (Reuters): French soccer is once again enjoying world-class status after years in the shadows of its European rivals but the country's club sides fear they may pay the price for success next season.

With the transfer season far from over, 34 French players, including 24 present or past internationals, are already lined up to play abroad next year.

The opening of the European soccer labour market following the Bosman case accounts for the unprecedented exodus from a country long looked down upon by other continental powers.

But there are other reasons for this sudden trend. The main one may simply be that French players are good.

Since the days of Michel Platini and France's 1984 European Championship title, the image of the Gallic footballer has changed.

By winning the European Cup in 1993 with a strong, physical but technically limited team, Marseille showed that French players were more than just gifted but temperamental Latin dribblers.

The last four of Euro '96 last month — its best international performance in 10 years — and last spring, for the first time ever, two French club sides made it to European finals.

Paris St Germain won the European Cup Winners' Cup and in the UEFA Cup Bordeaux fell to Bayern Munich at the last hurdle.

Along the way, French clubs beat Italian sides such as AC Milan, Lazio and Parma — inconceivable in even the recent past.

As a result, 13 French players will play in Italy next season compared to just five to date.

The biggest names on the move are Youri Djorkaeff, who

joins Jocelyn Angloma at Internazionale, Zinedine Zidane and Christophe Dugarry, who team up with Marcel Desailly and Patrick Vieira at AC Milan, and Lilian Thuram and Daniel Bravo, who go to Parma.

In England, where Eric Cantona and David Ginola spurred an unexpected trend of Francophilia last season, international defender Franck Leboeuf joins Premier league Chelsea next season.

Spain is another haven for French players with six new players heading south over the Pyrenees.

Basque defender Bixente Lizarazu will play under former PSG coach Luis Fernandez at Athletic Bilbao while Corentin Martins and Mickael Madar join Deportivo Coruna, another side who discovered the strength of French soccer the hard way last season, losing to PSG in the semifinals of the Cup Winners Cup.

Two players, Marc Keller and Hubert Fournier, will join Jean-Pierre Papin in the Bundesliga while four players are heading for Switzerland.

The trend, however flattering, is worrying French football officials.

"We should have done our utmost to keep them. After such a fantastic season for our football it's not acceptable to see all these players go," French league president Noel le Graet said.</