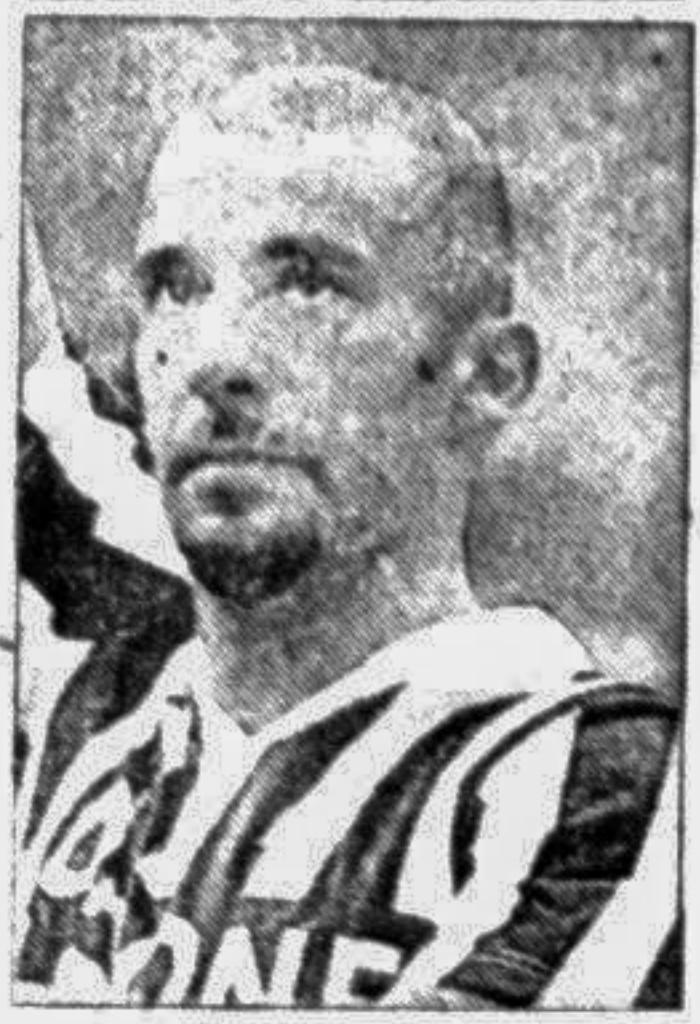


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Gianluca Vialli

(Italian soccer superstar)
This is like the first day at school for me and I feel like a young boy arriving at a new place.

About English football.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-46

Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 p.m.

July 19, 1996)

1	Who is the current Olympic 100m sprint champion	Usain	Fredericks
2	The 1972 Olympic Games were held in	Montreal	Mexico City
3	Bangladesh first participated in the Olympic Games in	1976	1980
4	The first Modern Olympic Games was held in	1896	1900
5	The name of the IOC president is	Sanderson	Vialli

Name _____
Address _____
Class _____ Roll No. _____
School Address _____
Phone: (if any) _____

Romario on the move

SAO PAULO, July 13: Brazilian World Cup striker Romario will return to Spain next month to play for First Division Valencia under a new \$8 million, three-year contract, local television said Friday, reports Reuter.

TV Globo said Romario, who helped lead Flamengo to the



Rio Championship with 26 goals, will play several more friendly matches in Brazil before leaving for Spain.

Romario left Barcelona last year complaining of homesickness to play for Flamengo but was reportedly unhappy about sharing the limelight at the Rio club with fellow striker La Coruna.

He was not chosen for the Brazilian national team traveling to Atlanta this month to play in the Olympics.

Earlier this week, Brazilian attacking midfielder Rivaldo of Palmeiras was reported close to signing with Spain's Deportivo la Coruna.

Local news reports said Rivaldo, one of Brazil's hottest young players, was working out personal details of a five-year contract with the Spanish club.

And on Monday, the manager of former European champion Marseille said Brazilian defender Adilson will join the French club within the next few days.

Michel Roussier said Adilson, a tough defender who helped Brazil's Gremio with the South American Libertadores Cup last year, would sign with Marseille provided he passed a medical.

The fugitive!

WALESKA, Georgia, July 13: Gambian 5,000-metre runner Zano Gomez has skipped out of his training camp at Reinhardt College here, following the lead of a boxer from Ghana who slipped away earlier this week, reports AFP.

Gomez, 19, has told camp officials he is staying with relatives in the area and was seen at two Atlanta dance parties. Gomez was asked to return to camp and declined.

Ghana super heavyweight boxer Ladi Alhassan departed, saying he was going to see a woman in New York and would return by the weekend.

Linford's another letdown

LONDON, July 13: Linford Christie continued his less than impressive build-up for the defence of his Olympic 100 metres title on Friday when he was beaten by Jamaican Michael Green in his final race before the Atlanta Games, reports Reuter.

Christie, who has regularly finished down the pecking order this season, got away to one of his trademark poor starts and although he came back in the second half of the race to clock 10.26 seconds with Green, the Jamaican looked a clear winner.

The 36-year-old Briton seemed unable to power past the field at the London Grand Prix in the way he used to, and his defeat was a disappointment to the home fans half-filling the 17,000 capacity Crystal Palace Stadium.

Green, the Commonwealth Games silver medalist, held a two metres lead at halfway and just managed to hold his advantage to the line.

Afterwards, Christie jogged a half-hearted farewell lap of honour and told the trackside announcer, "I was not very happy with that, I'll be looking for something better in Atlanta."

But there was success for another British veteran. Tessa Sanderson, the 1994 Los Angeles Games javelin champion who is on her way to a record-equaling sixth Olympic Games at the age of 40, won with a throw of 64.06 metres, her best of the season.

Sanderson, who has recently come out of retirement, said afterwards, "I would not be competing it deep down. I did not think I could win an Olympic medal. I am in good shape and believe I can do it."

While Sanderson will be attempting to win her second gold medal in 12 years, Sonia O'Sullivan goes to Atlanta looking for the Republic of Ireland's first gold since Rod Delaney won the 1,500 metres in 1986.

O'Sullivan, the 5,000 metres world champion, timed her race to perfection.

although the organisers' claim that the race was a world record attempt seemed a little over-ambitious in the cool conditions.

She clocked 14 minutes, 48.36 seconds, her best time of the season and the fifth best in the world this year.

"About halfway through the race I had to decide whether to fight the wind or take the easy way out," she said.

O'Sullivan, who will bid for an unprecedented Olympic 1,500 and 5,000 double in Atlanta, has already run the fastest 1,500 and 3,000 metres in the world this season.

Asked about her Olympic prospects she said, "At this stage you have to be really confident, but I think the 1,500 will be more competitive than the 5,000."

Another runner who looks capable of picking up a rare

100m and 200m sprints, Nilufer in 200m long jump, Karar Mizanur Rahman and shooter Saiful Islam Rinki and BOA treasurer Akhtar Hossain Khan (manager).

Nilufer will take part in the 100m and 200m sprints, Nilufer in 200m long jump, Karar in 100m and 200m breaststrokes and Rinki in 175m air rifle 60 shots.

Besides, BOA acting president Enamul Huq, vice president Siddique Ahmed and secretary general Bashir Ahmed will attend the games as noc officials.

BOA deputy secretary general Zafar Imam and secretary of the National Sports Council Fazlur Rahman Khan are going to Atlanta as guests of BOA president and secretary general.

British world triple jump champion Jonathan Edwards chalked up his 22nd successive victory with a leap of 17.52 metres while Philip Mosima of Kenya scored a rare victory over his illustrious compatriot Moses Kiptanui in the 3,000 metres.

Mosima, who failed to make the Kenyan Olympic team despite clocking 12.53.72 for the 5,000m in Rome last month, won by a stride in 7.35.52.

Kiptanui, the world champion, world record holder and odds-on favourite for the Olympic 3,000 metres title, finished 0.16 seconds behind.

The home crowd's final disappointment of a low key meeting came just before the 400 metres when Britain's European champion Duane Ladejo walked away from the starting blocks moments before his showdown with bitter rival and British record holder Roger Black.

American Darnell Hall won the race in 44.68 seconds with Black second in 44.88.

"I was feeling ill all day and had stomach cramps just before the start," Ladejo said.

LINFORD CHRISTIE

gold for his country is Vebjornnold of Norway, winner of the 800 metres.

His time of 1 minute 43.25 seconds was just 0.02 seconds outside the fastest time over run in Britain — Steve Cram's 1.43.23 from 1986.

Rodal is among the favourites for gold, partly because Kenyan-born world champion Wilson Kipketer is ineligible to run in Atlanta.

Kipketer, the fastest man in the world this year has not

come. Washington, to go to church with his mother.

"After Leo won, we all got geared up to win, too," Leonard said.

Mooney, boxing with a chest cold, lost 5-0 to North Korea's Gu Yong-Jo at 119 pounds (89.5 kilos). Then the American show began.

"It was not about money," Leonard said. "It was about pride, just sheer pride. It was an incredible experience."

And Leonard was happy to share it.

On that night 20 years ago in a packed Montreal Forum, Leonard, Leo Randolph, Howard Davis and Michael and Leon Spinks all won Olympic boxing championships for the United States.

Randolph, Leonard and Leon Spinks sweetened the pot of gold by beating Cubans in the final.

"When it was all over, (the late head coach) Pat Nappi and I looked at each other and we had tears in our eyes," recalled Rollie Schwartz, the team manager.

We went to a bar and stayed there until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. Neither of us were drinkers, but that night we were just two dummies drinking beer.

"I do think we had the best team ever," said Leonard, the team captain.

Besides the five gold medalists, Charles Mooney won a silver and John Tate got a bronze. Randolph, Leonard, the Spinks brothers and Tate went on to win world professional titles.

Rounding out the team were Louis Curtis, Chuck Walker, Davey Armstrong and Clint Jackson. Assisting Nappi was Tom "Sarge" Johnson, one of 14 members of a US team killed in a plane crash in Poland on March 14, 1980.

"Pat Nappi was really a good coach," Michael Spinks said. "Sarge Johnson was a character. He'd play world games and take five-minute naps."

Before the Montreal Games, expectations were not high for the 1976 squad. American boxers had won only seven gold medals from 1956 through 1972.

Curtis lost his first-round bout at 106 pounds (47.5 kilos). Walker, after drawing a bye, was outpointed 3-2 by Poland's Jerzy Rybicki, the eventual 156-pound (70 kilo) champion.

Tate, fighting with swollen left eye suffered in a previous bout, was knocked out in the first round by Cuban great Teofilo Stevenson, who won the second of his three Olympic gold medals. Tate went on to win the World Boxing Association heavyweight championship in 1979.

Jackson, boxing at 147 pounds (66 kilos), and Armstrong, 125 (56), lost a 3-2 decision in the quarterfinals. Armstrong lost to Cuba's Angel Herrera, the gold medalist.

Two judges each had voted 59-58 for Armstrong, and two had called it 59-58 for Herrera. The Iranian judge scored it 59-59, but under the rules a judge had to pick a winner. And he picked the Cuban.

"I sat with Davey all night and he never stopped crying," Schwartz recalled.

When the finals arrived, the pressure went up a notch.

Randolph started the US gold rush when he scored a 3-2 decision over Cuban Ramon Duvalon at 112 pounds (50 kilos). He then flew home to Ta-

tao.

Veteran British Olympian Tessa Sanderson is about to hurl the javelin during the Crystal Palace meeting in London on July 12. The 40-year-old former champion won with a throw of 64.04 metres.

Olympians leave for Atlanta tomorrow

A six-member Bangladeshi team led by Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports A S M Shahjahan leaves here on July 15 for Atlanta to take part in the Centennial Olympics there, an official of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) said yesterday.

"There is no real favourite for the race. It is very open and the boys from Morocco, the Italians, the Kenyans and Johnny Gray of the States are all very dangerous rivals."

Rodal finished comfortably clear of Kenyan David Kiptoo (1.44.07) and Burundi's Arthemone Hatungimana (1.44.09).

Among other notable winners were Cathy Freeman, the Commonwealth Games 200 and 400 champion who won the 400 in an Australian record of 49.59 seconds.

World champion Allen Johnson also looked in good form leading an American sweep in the 110 metres hurdles, winning in 13.20 seconds ahead of Jack Pierce (13.51).

Terry Reese (13.57).

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