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CENTENNIAL GAMES CHIPS

CAMERA LETS CLINTON DOWN

ATLANTA, July 20 (AP) — President Clinton will always have his memories of the opening ceremony at the Olympic Stadium. He just won't have any pictures.

The US leader, attending the ceremonies with his wife and daughter, apparently failed to advance his camera's film as he took some shots of the Atlanta extravaganza Friday night.

The problem was uncovered when Whitney White of the White House staff asked Associated Press staffers at the stadium to process a roll of film shot by Clinton earlier in the night.

The AP, hopeful of moving one of the presidential pictures, obliged — but found only a blank roll of film.

BRITAIN ONE STEP AHEAD

Red British post and telephone boxes have been shipped to Atlanta to make the British team feel more at home, team officials said on Friday.

The two post boxes and one telephone box have been installed right in front of the British section of the Olympic Village.

"We are trying to make the athletes feel at home as much as possible," said deputy chief of mission Simon Clegg.

Clegg said the British flats were designed for four students, but athletes were crammed in, eight per flat.

However, the team's horses are living in the lap of luxury with shag pile carpet on the floors of their stables.

SOMETHING & NOTHING

A veteran civil rights leader set a torch to the Georgia flag Friday on the steps of the Capitol in view of spectators streaming to the opening ceremony.

"Damn you and goodbye!" declared Jesse Williams, touching the flame from a wooden torch to the nylon fabric, which melted in places but did not burst into flames. Several dozen supporters chanted, "Burn, baby, burn."

The act was not a crime. Burning the state flag is not illegal under Georgia law.

The flag incorporates the fighting banner of the Confederacy, star-studded crossed bars in blue on a red background. It was added to the flag in 1956 in defiance of court-ordered integration.

After Williams burned the flag, a separate group of mostly white young people set an American flag on fire. Williams supporters distanced themselves from that action. It was not clear what the group was protesting. A banner read, "Food Not Bombs."

DOWNS IN DUMPS

Some 3,000 students who came to Atlanta to work in Olympic souvenir stands and get a ticket to an Olympic event saw their hopes disappear because of a lack of suitable sleeping arrangements.

The students, most of them in high school, came from as far away as Hawaii, said Bob Searies, a chaperone from a high school in Florida.

Summer Games Employment Services Group of Atlanta recruited the students and promised beds and meals at two schools. But the fire marshal's office advised them to vacate the schools this week, saying the arrangements were unsafe.

Left with no place to stay, the employment group sent the students to motels in suburban Atlanta. The motels, unsure if they were going to be paid, asked the students to leave Friday so the rooms would be available for paying guests.

Many of the students had quit their summer jobs just to get a chance to see the Olympics, said Barry Reid, administrator of the consumer affairs office.

"It's not a happy experience for anybody," Reid said. "Our indications are the operation was well-financed, but obviously not well-planned."

DREAM COMES TRUE

Calling it the ultimate symbol of his father's dream, the son of Martin Luther King Jr. carried the Olympic torch Friday past a chapel bearing the slain civil rights leader's name on the campus where he went to college.

"My father couldn't be here so, in a real sense, I'm here in his place," said Dexter King, who carried the torch past the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College.

"When my mother passed the torch to me, it was like his torch was being passed on to the next generation," Dexter King said.

The Olympics have always meant peace and that's what King stood for," said Teresa Dumas, whose daughter Takeisha also ran with the torch Friday. "It's only fitting that they carry it. There's nothing better than that."

It was one of the final legs in an 84-day journey that has taken the torch 15,000 miles (24,000 kilometers) through 43 states.

ROYAL CHARITY

A foundation headed by Britain's Prince Charles is donating a 1 million dollars monument to Atlanta as a lasting reminder of the Olympics.

The 43-foot (almost 14-meter) World Athletes Monument will be built near the city centre, said Rodney M Cook Jr. of Atlanta, a director of the Prince of Wales Foundation for Architecture.



President Bill Clinton talks to boxing icon Muhammad Ali (L) during the opening ceremonies of the Centennial Olympic Games. — AFP/UNB photo

Hosts' sigh of relief



ATLANTA, July 20 (AP) — What about the Cubans? It's the question the amateur boxing world, and particularly the United States boxers, have been asking for more than two decades.

Ever since an unknown heavyweight, named Teofilo Stevenson, knocked out US gold medal favourite Duane Bobick at the 1972 Olympics, the Cubans have held an unusually tall stature in boxing for such a small Caribbean nation.

This year, opponents insist Cuba's team is weaker than usual, hurt in part by recent defections of two key fighters — Ramon Garbey, the 1993 world champion at 81 kilograms (178 pounds), and Joel Casamayor, the 54-kilogram (119-pound), champion at the 1992 Olympics.

"I don't think anybody should concentrate on the Cubans, because the other countries are developing," said US assistant coach Jesse Ravelo. "I don't think the Cubans are as strong as they've been before."

Still, Ravelo and other US team members were breathing easier after Friday's draw for the Centennial Games because only two of them were in the same half of the bracket as Cubans.

"The draw looks very good right now," Ravelo said. "In the only head-to-head match between the countries in the first round, Eric Morel of the United States takes on Cuban Maikio Romero at 112 pounds (51 kilograms)."

Officials used pingpong balls blown out of a machine in the blind draw for 355 boxers from around the world who

will compete for gold medals in 12 weight classes.

Most of the favourites are Cubans, including veterans Felix Savon, Ariel Hernandez and Juan Hernandez.

Savon is a five-time world champion and 1992 Olympic champion. Ariel Hernandez is the 1992 Olympic and 1993 world champion at 75 kilograms (165 pounds); Juan Hernandez is a three-time world champion and a silver medalist at Barcelona.

Although the United States has never beaten Cuba in a dual meet, a victory by Morel would reduce the Cuban margin in Olympic matchups to 9-6.

This year's competition will be the second time US and Cuban boxers have met in the same Olympics since 1976. The United States boycotted the 1980 Moscow Games, and the Cubans did not compete in 1984 at Los Angeles and 1988 at Seoul.

Salute to Stukelj!

ATLANTA, July 20: Leon Stukelj, 97, the world's oldest living Olympic champion, looked half his age as he trotted into the Atlanta Games arena during Friday's opening ceremony, reports Reuters.

Slovenian Stukelj, winner of a gymnastics gold at the 1924 Paris Olympics, had a real spring in his step as he was given a rousing welcome by the crowd.

Smiling and waving, he took centrestage with fellow champions like swimmer Mark Spitz and long jumper Bob Beamon.

Eight times gold medalist Carl Lewis sprang forward to shake his hand and Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci gave him a big kiss.

British Olympic team get royal visit

TALLAHASSEE, Florida, July 20: Twenty years after she competed in the Olympics, Princess Anne toured the British Olympic team's north Florida training site en route to opening ceremonies for the Games in Atlanta, reports AP.

British boxing, cycling, swimming, gymnastics, track and field and other competitors took advantage of the state capital's hot, muggy climate to train for gruelling Olympic contests in Atlanta's midsummer heat.

"Can I take this opportunity on behalf of all the athletes who have benefited enormously from your hospitality to thank you all very much indeed for all you have done," the daughter of Queen Elizabeth told a crowd at City Hall.

Earlier, the princess toured a college gym where athletes trained for the Games.

"You could sort of tell who she was because of the hat," said Florida State University graduate student Lucy Nguyen.

Princess Anne, 45, participated in an equestrian event in the 1976 Olympics. She is president of the British Olympic Association and one of two English members of the International Olympic Committee.

She left for Atlanta on a private plane after unveiling a bronze statue of a man and woman holding an Olympic torch.



Belgian shatters first world mark

ATLANTA, July 20: Fred Deburghgraeve of Belgium set a world record Saturday morning during the preliminaries of the Olympic 100-metre breaststroke, reports AP.

His time of 1 minute, 00.60 seconds broke the mark of 1:00.95 set by Karoly Guttler of Hungary in August 1993. Guttler had the fourth-fastest time during Saturday's heats, 1:01.80.

Deburghgraeve, 23, had swum the second-fastest time ever of 1:01.12 before Saturday's race. He had only the 34th-best time in the event during the 1992 Olympics.

Jeremy Linn of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, nearly set an Olympic record two heats before Deburghgraeve swam. Linn's time of 1:01.53 was just three-hundredths of a second slower than Nelson Diebel's time when he won the gold medal at Barcelona.

American Kurt Grote also qualified for Saturday night's finals.

Germany go down

Olympic champions Germany crashed to defeat in the opening game of the Atlanta men's hockey tournament here today, losing the group a tie 1-0 to Spain at Clark Atlanta university, AFP.

Bad blow for Georgia

Defending Olympic heavyweight judo champion David Khakhalechvili of Georgia failed to report for his weight-in Saturday morning and forfeited his match against Alexandru Lungu of Romania. Games organizers said (AP).

The loss eliminated Khakhalechvili from the single-elimination competition. He was a favourite to repeat as the heavyweight champion.

One report said Khakhalechvili went to the World Congress Centre, the competition venue, for his weight-in instead of the Olympic Village, where it was conducted.

Judo venue media personnel could neither confirm nor deny the report. (AP)



Gallian's magnum opus

LONDON, July 20: Jason Gallian joined the elite list of multiple century brigades on Friday, registering the highest individual score ever at Old Trafford as Lancashire took control of their county match against Derbyshire, reports Reuters.

Gallian's 312 beat the previous highest score at Old Trafford by Bobby Simpson in the 1964 Ashes Series by one run.

After batting throughout the first day to beat his previous career best of 171, the 25-year-old opener went on to face 583 balls and hit 33 fours and four sixes.

It was the first triple century in the championship since Brian Lara's 501 for Warwickshire against Durham at Edgbaston two years ago and only the 10th since the 1939-45 war.

Lancashire captain Mike Watkinson declared on 587 for nine from 189 overs. In reply Derbyshire were 78 for two, still needing another 360 to avoid the follow-on.

Leicestershire stormed to the top of the championship with a win in side two days against lowly Gloucestershire at Cheltenham.

But their stay at the summit might be short-lived as David Byas joined forces with Anthony McGrath in a four-wicket partnership of 272 to put Yorkshire in a strong position against Hampshire at Harrogate. With Kent not in action, victory will put Yorkshire on top.

Leicestershire's 102-run win — their third in succession — was achieved despite scores

of just 159 and 150. In their first innings, Gloucestershire managed only 71 and in their second they were dismissed for 136.

At Harrogate, Byas (138)

Nasser's fate hangs in the balance

LONDON, July 20: England batsman Nasser Hussain said on Friday he was hoping to make a comeback from a broken finger in a Sunday League one-day match ahead of next week's first Test against Pakistan at Lord's, reports Reuters.

Hussain was forced to retire hurt on 107 in England's first innings of the third Test against India a fortnight ago after cracking his right index finger.

England selectors meet in London this weekend to choose the squad for the first of three Tests against Pakistan starting on Thursday.

"I rate my chances of playing as 50-50," said the Essex batsman of his chances of playing in Nottinghamshire at Chelmsford on Sunday.

If Hussain fails to prove his fitness, it could allow Nick Knight, another player who has had his Test career interrupted by injury, to win a recall.

Opener Nick Knight steered Warwickshire to a seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in a three-day match on Friday.

The 26-year-old hit an unbeaten 90, mastering leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed alone.

and McGrath (137) steered Yorkshire to a lead of 161. It was the third highest stand for the wicket in the county's history and the best since 1921.

England batsman Graeme Hick made a timely return to form to put Worcestershire in a strong position to register their first home county championship success of the season.

Hick's 150 carried Worcestershire to a first-innings advantage of 62 against Durham, who were then reduced to 132 for eight by the close.

Hick, who averaged just 8.75 in the three-Test series against India, has now completed the set of championship centuries against the other 17 counties.

"The century milestone was not something that really worried me. I had a few other things on my mind. Like getting amongst the runs again," he said.

Paul Weekes hit his second century of the season as Middlesex moved into a commanding position against Northamptonshire at Northampton.

The 27-year-old opener struck 20 fours in his championship-best 133 knock which guided Middlesex to 232 for three at the close and an overall lead of 217.

All-rounder Chris Lewis's selection for next week's Test was placed in doubt when he strained his thigh in Surrey's match against Sussex at Guildford. Lewis (29 not out) fell when avoiding being run out.

A declaration at 304 six, which included 130 by England's Graham Thorpe, left Sussex needing 451 for victory. By the close they were 60 for one.

Kenyans' conflict within



ATLANTA, July 20 (AP): Greed Healed Nationalism. Clashing generations.

A battle between Kenyan runners and team officials epitomises the tensions that occur when athletes from a poor country are exposed to the wealth that comes with international stardom.

"They didn't make money, and now we're making money," Olympic steeplechase favorite Moses Kiptanui said of team officials. "It's not that they don't want me to run, but it's that they don't want me to make money."

Though the conflict apparently has been resolved temporarily, allowing Kenya's top runners to compete in the Olympics, animosity lingers as the east African nation tries to continue its mastery of distance events.

Kenyan men won two golds and eight medals overall in events ranging from 400 meters to 10,000 metres at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, including a sweep in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

They are favoured in several Olympic distance races this summer and should repeat their sweep in the steeplechase.

But that all seemed at risk a few days ago when Kiptanui, one of Africa's greatest sports heroes and the leader of the Kenyan team, threatened to throw more than two dozen athletes off the team for not reporting to a pre-Olympic training camp in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Those athletes were racing in Grand Prix events in Europe, some making up to \$50,000 a race.

Keino, vice president of Kenya's Olympic Committee, accused the athletes of betraying their country and claimed agents did not have permission from Kenyan authorities to enter the athletes in those races.

The runners, such as three-time world champion Kiptanui, said they're simply trying to make a living and that racing in Europe was better Olympic preparation than training in steamy Hattiesburg.

Keino said last week he would leave the final decision on whether to replace the runners up to Kenyan government officials.

Keino and other team leaders were in meetings all day Friday and not available for comment.

Kiptanui, though, said the battle has been resolved temporarily and that all the runners will be competing in Atlanta. But he remained bitter about the struggle and accused team leaders such as Keino of jealousy.

"We have some people who are sportsmen, but they were sportsmen long ago and things have changed. They have a 1970s mentality, so it is difficult for them to understand."

Sabine Hack in semis

PALERMO, Sicily, July 20: Second-seeded Sabine Hack of Germany downed the No 8 seed, Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia, Friday at the 107,500 dollars Palermo Grand Prix women's tennis tournament, reports AP.

Size couldn't silence 'em

ATLANTA, July 20: (Reuters): The smallest nation taking part in the Atlanta Games has so few people that the entire native population could be comfortably accommodated in the Olympic Village.

But the South Pacific island of Nauru is still confident of celebrating its Olympic debut by winning a medal thanks to a weightlifter whose popularity is such that his face appears on postage stamps.

Nauru is mind-bogglingly small, it has a native population of only 8,000, compared to the more than 10,000 athletes who are in Atlanta.

The athletes once stayed in a hotel in China which had more guests than their country has people," said team doctor David Kennedy. "They were completely disorientated."

Despite this, Nauru has managed to muster six Olympic competitors so that an impressive 0.075 of its population will be taking part in the Games.

If China did the same, they would have a squad approaching 800,000 athletes.

Leading the Nauru challenge is Marcus Stephen, a

weightlifter who won three gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, two years ago.

Stephen knows almost everyone in his country personally and his presence on stamps makes him an even more familiar sight.

"He has a realistic chance of at least winning a bronze," said Kennedy, an Australian who moved to Nauru five years ago. "It would be an amazing achievement for such a small country."

Nauru, which became an International Olympic Committee member two years ago, has two other weightlifters and Kennedy said the short, stocky build of the Polynesians made them ideal for the sport.

Sport has developed quickly as the income derived from the lucrative but environmentally destructive phosphate mining industry has been ploughed back into providing facilities.

At least 200 people take part in an Australian rules football league which features ten teams, while an estimated 1,000 are actively involved in other sports such as tennis

and athletics.

"The weightlifting facilities are second in the region only to Melbourne," said Stephen, who lived there for 11 years and speaks English with a heavy Australian accent.

Kennedy said that Nauru natives were by nature introverted, cordial contact with foreigners, and could find travelling an unnerving experience.

"Sport is helping them break out of their closed society, they are becoming more open," Kennedy said. "But I don't think they will left it spoil the country."

He added that Nauru was everything that the Olympic host nation is not.

Consumerism is frowned upon, there are no taxis, crime is virtually non-existent and the island's only road cuts across the runway at the airport.

"Although incomes are high, they live in very simple houses and they do not like to show their wealth. They split everything. Even if someone buys a car, he shares it with the rest of the family," said Kennedy.



A view of the fireworks display that lit the night sky over the Atlantic Olympic Stadium during the opening ceremonies. — AFP/UNB photo