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Atlanta 1996



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China takes early lead

ATLANTA, July 21: China led in both gold medals, with two, and a frustration, with plenty on the Olympics opening day Saturday, reports AP. Some of its swimming medal hopes failed even to qualify...

ATLANTA SNIPPETS

NOTHING BEATS FRIENDSHIP ATLANTA, July 21: American Angel Martino, third in the Olympic 100 metres freestyle final on Saturday, donated her medal to a friend fighting cancer soon after the victory ceremony, reports Reuter.



Chinese natant Le Jingyi celebrates after winning the women's 100m freestyle gold at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center on July 20. Le won with a timing of 54.50 seconds, giving China its first gold medal in the Atlanta Olympics.

PEPSI logo and Atlanta 1996 logo

MEDALS TABLE ATLANTA, July 21: Medals table after the first day of competition at the Atlanta Olympics on Saturday: (tabulated under Country G S B Total)

Dull debut for 'Dream Team III'

ATLANTA, July 21: The lights went out on 'Dream team III' during their Olympic opener. And when they returned, the United States team seemed to be the one suffering from a power failure.

QUIPS & QUOTES

ATLANTA, July 21 (AFP): What people are saying at the Atlanta Olympics: 'Because I'm good at it. If I could swim 100m faster than anybody else in the world, believe me, I would.'



A SHOT THAT BACKFIRED: World champion and gold medalist at a Barcelona event at the Wolf Creek Shooting Complex near Atlanta on Saturday, is given first aid after he collapsed as a sequel of a late debacle.

after Chen Yan had only the 17th best qualifying time and Wu Yanyan the 18th, both swimming about 13 seconds slower than at their national trials in April.

Luck — the fickle lady

ATLANTA, July 21 (Reuter): It's not the winning that counts, it's playing the game. Yet at least two Olympic hopefuls didn't even get that far as the Games began in Atlanta on Saturday.

RIGHT MOMENT FOR ROMANCE

British canoeist Shaun Pearce won the gold medal for romance by kneeling down in the middle of the Olympic stadium during the opening ceremony and proposing the physiotherapist Julie Stark.



A beaming Sun Fuming of China acknowledges the crowd's applause with her over-72kg women's heavyweight judo gold at the Georgia World Congress Centre in Atlanta on Saturday.

Transport trauma

ATLANTA, July 21: Olympic organisers ordered an urgent review of Atlanta's transport system on Saturday after it failed its first major test — shutting 85,000 spectators to the Games opening ceremony, reports Reuter.

Mercedes Cup Muster's

STUTTGART, Germany, July 21: Thomas Muster successfully defended his championship crown at the Mercedes Open tennis tournament Sunday, defeating French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 6-2, 6-2, 6-4, reports AP.

Solid start for Russian gymnasts

ATLANTA, July 21: Russia used a lesson learned from an embarrassing performance in gymnastics at last year's World Championships to seize the lead from China after compulsory men's exercises at the Olympics, reports Reuter.

The blood, sweat & tears

ATLANTA, July 21: Cuba provided the blood, Tajikistan the tears and a Canadian Hercules the sweat at the Olympic boxing tournament on Saturday, reports Reuter.

IOC thinking about future

ATLANTA, July 21: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said Saturday it would review the former of future opening ceremonies after suggestions that Atlanta's drawn-out extravaganza in steamy heat was too gruelling, reports Reuter.