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ATLANTA SNIPPETS

STAR ATTRACTION

ATLANTA, July 23 (AP): American movie stars Demi Moore and Bruce Willis were spotted with their three children in the front row of women's gymnastics team finals Tuesday morning.

Moore, whose movie "Strip-tease" is currently playing in movie theatres in the United States, wore a white kerchief over her hair and spectacles that resembled swim goggles perched above her forehead.

The couple's seven-year-old daughter Rumer, who plays Moore's daughter in "strip-tease," her film debut, was entranced.

CONDOM RINGS

They may look like the Olympic rings, but they're condoms.

Posters, fliers, buttons and business cards featuring condoms arranged like the Olympic rings in the Olympic colours of blue, black, red yellow and green have been popping up all over town to promote safe sex.

"Play safe," they proclaim, in 17 languages.

A coalition of 100 doctors and public health workers have distributed about half a million of the safe-sex materials over the past few nights in bars, restaurants and shops downtown and in Atlanta's trendy neighbourhoods.

Women's hockey

Aussies amerce Argentina

ATLANTA, July 23: Favourite Australia went top of the Olympic women's hockey tournament standings on Monday by thrashing Argentina 7-1, reports Reuter.

With two games played in the eight-team competition, Australia led undefeated Germany on goal difference.

The United States staged a shock 3-2 win over South Korea to fill third spot, one point behind.

Olympic soccer

Garcia spares Spain's blushes

ATLANTA, July 23: Champions Spain franchised a 1-1 draw against France, the 1984 winners, with a goal from Oscar Garcia just five minutes from the end of their Group B match on a night of wasted penalties in the Olympic soccer competition, report agencies.

Garcia also scored the winning goal in Spain's opening game against Saudi Arabia, who suffered another defeat against Australia, 2-1 after Australian goalkeeper Frank Juric saved a penalty from Saudi captain Foad Al-Khar Amri.

Argentina and Portugal drew 1-1 in Group A and hosts United States beat Tunisia 2-0.

Spanish coach Javier Clemente made six changes from the side that beat Saudi Arabia while France left out captain Jerome Onniselard restructured their defence for the Group's top game in Orlando.

The backline kept Spain at bay with clever offside tactics until the 21st minute when Oscar thought he had scored, only for the Thai referee to rule out the goal for a charge on the French goalkeeper, Lionel Letizi.

France, who beat Australia 2-0, opened the scoring in the 39th minute from a corner when forward Sylvain Legwinzky found himself unmarked and headed home from six metres.

Spain wasted a second half penalty when Oscar's shot was saved by Letizi diving to his right. France had plenty of chances to wrap the game up before Oscar scored against the run of play as France prepared for the final whistle.

In Miami Australia won a thrilling game in which both teams hit the woodwork on numerous occasions. An 11th minute goal from Peter Tskenis was equalised by Mohammed Al-Khilaiwi in the 37th minute.

Benefit match for Reeve

LONDON, July 23: West Indian Richie Richardson is to lead World XI in a benefit match for Warwickshire's injury-stricken skipper Dermot Reeve next month, reports AFP.

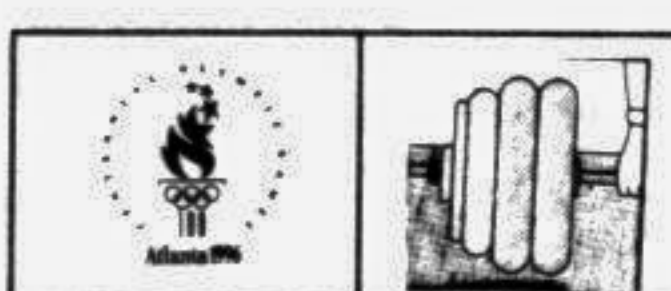
Reeve, who announced his retirement last week because of a hip problem, has assembled an all-star side including England captain Michael Atherton, to take on Warwickshire at Edgbaston on Saturday August 3.

World XI: Richie Richardson, Ian Bishop (West Indies) Michael Atherton, Neil Fairbrother (England), Aravinda de Silva, Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka), Roger Tostert (NZ), Gary Kirsten, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson (SA), Merv Hughes (AUS).



SUPERB SEVEN: Russian gymnastic team acknowledging crowds' cheers after claiming the gold in the event at the Georgia Dome, Atlanta, on July 22. — AFP/UNB photo

Russians romp through



a score of 576.778.

Nemov and Voropaev will go after the all-around title Wednesday, then Nemov will be part of five-event finals Sunday and Monday. He'll be after Scherbo's 1992 record of six gold medals, with the possibility of seven.

Russian coach Leonid Arkaev, longtime coach of the Soviet-Unifieds, was annoyed by questions comparing his latest group with his former successes.

"Every new team that comes to me is stronger than before," he said. "These athletes have been trained much better, technically."

American gymnast Jair Lynch put a different spin on things.

"If the Soviet Union didn't break up, we'd have a medal," he surmised.

The performance by the Russians was surprising to many world observers because they were fourth at the 1995 world championships. They were 11th after the compulsories.

Arkaev knew exactly how to remedy that problem.

"We spent 75 per cent of our training on compulsory performances," he said, adding that the world championships forced him to do "a lot of soul-searching."

It worked because the Russians were first after compulsories with 287.258 and

even better in optionals, scoring 289.520.

The top five teams from compulsories finished in the same order in optionals. China, the winner of last year's worlds, made a run at Russia, but was stopped cold when three gymnasts fell off the high bar and finished with 575.539.

"There are many factors why (China finished second)," coach Huan Huabin said. "Maybe it was just our time to be unlucky. We must find out our problems and fix them."

Reigning world champion Li Xiaoshuang was sixth overall. After botching several routines in the compulsories — including a bad slip on the rings — he wasn't very impressive Monday either.

Scherbo will try defending his all-around title, as well as his gold in the parallel bars and vault. He also will be after the two golds he missed last time, floor and high bars.

The Americans, who were rooted on with incessant chants of "U-S-A" from the home crowd in the Georgia Dome, were pleased with their performance because it was such an improvement from their ninth-place finish at last year's worlds.

"We are the most improved team in the world," coach Peter Korman said. "One year ago nobody would have thought we would be in the hunt for a medal."

Indians hold Germany



would have proved disastrous for either side.

The draw gave both teams their first point from two matches and kept their semi-final hopes alive — for the time being, at least.

Both teams will have to win their remaining league matches, including a potentially dangerous encounter against Pakistan, to ensure a place in the last four.

India, outplayed for a major part of the match, took the lead eight minutes from the final whistle in their first serious shot at the German goal.

Striker Dhanraj Pillay broke free from the 25-yard line and passed to an unmarked Mukesh from the top of the circle. Mukesh unleashed a hard, rising shot which found the German net.

The Germans, who forced seven penalty corners in the match without success — India had none — hit back immediately as Saligar deflected in a pass from Christoph Bechmann from the right flank.

"A draw is the most satisfactory result," said Indian coach Cedric D'Souza.

German coach Paul Lissek said his team would have won if the forwards had not missed easy openings inside the Indian circle.

Quality corner drills ensured Spain's success. Arnaud scored from their first in the 21st minute and Juan Escarre from their second on the half hour.

Spain controlled the pace at which the game was played, denying Pakistan any room to make fast breaks.

Giant-killers Spain lead Group A with four points earned from stunning victories over Germany and top seeds Pakistan.

Pakistan have two points from as many matches.

Argentina took advantage of a slow start by the United States to race into a 5-0 lead in 32 minutes.

Jorge Lombi and Fernando Ferrara each scored twice before Santiago Capurro followed up a corner for Argentina's fifth goal.

Argentina coasted through the second half, allowing Marq Mellor and Steve Jennings to score corner goals.

Argentina joined Spain at the top of Group A by thrashing the United States.

Playing in the blue and white stripes made famous by their football team, the Argentinians ran up a 5-0 lead by half time before the US team pulled back two goals after the interval.



TOASTING A POINT: Asako Tajimi (C), Tomoko Yoshihara (L) and Ikumi Ogake celebrate after scoring a point against their opponents during a Pool A basketball match at the Omni Coliseum on July 22. Japan won 3-0. — AFP/UNB photo

'Dream Team' roll on

ATLANTA, July 23: The US 'Dream Team' never trailed in an 87-54 rout of Angola on Monday, as the Americans again had the starpower at the Olympic men's basketball tournament. But someone else had the compelling storyline, reports Reuter.

This time it was Argentina, making their first Olympic appearance in 44 years, they upset medal contenders Lithuania with a poised performance that showed their surprising first-half performance against the 'Dream Team' two days earlier had been no fluke.

The Americans, who had led Argentina by just two points after the first half Saturday before destroying them in the second, put Monday's game out of reach of their opponents a little earlier.

Angola, playing patiently and slowing the game down whenever possible, managed to cut the lead to just one point at 22-21 with about nine minutes to go in the first half.

But the 'Dream Team' then romped off on a 9-0 run and the game was effectively over.

The Angolans dramatically improve on their showing against the Dream Team in Barcelona, where they lost 116-48. That 68 points difference was the largest margin of the 1992 Games. This year's team cut it in half.

"I think we did a good job," said Angolan Justino Victoriano.

Hakeem Olajuwon, a Nigerian-born naturalised US citizen, praised the over-matched Angolans: "It was good to see a team representing Africa with good fundamentals."

With 16 points as the US side spread the wealth around.

Karl Malone tallied 12 points, Scottie Pippen 11 and Reggie Miller and Mitch Richmond 10 apiece for the Americans, who were not satisfied with the time it took them to crack the game open.

The Americans watched Argentina's 65-61 upset of Lithuania before their own game. "I wasn't surprised," Olajuwon said.

Argentina showed more discipline in gaining what coach Guillermo Vecchio called "the biggest victory ever for Argentine basketball."

Argentina were led by 25 points from Juan Espil, used a deliberate pace and shot 10-for-25 from three-point range.

"Big upset for us, very big," said disconsolate Lithuania guard Sarunas Marciulonis.

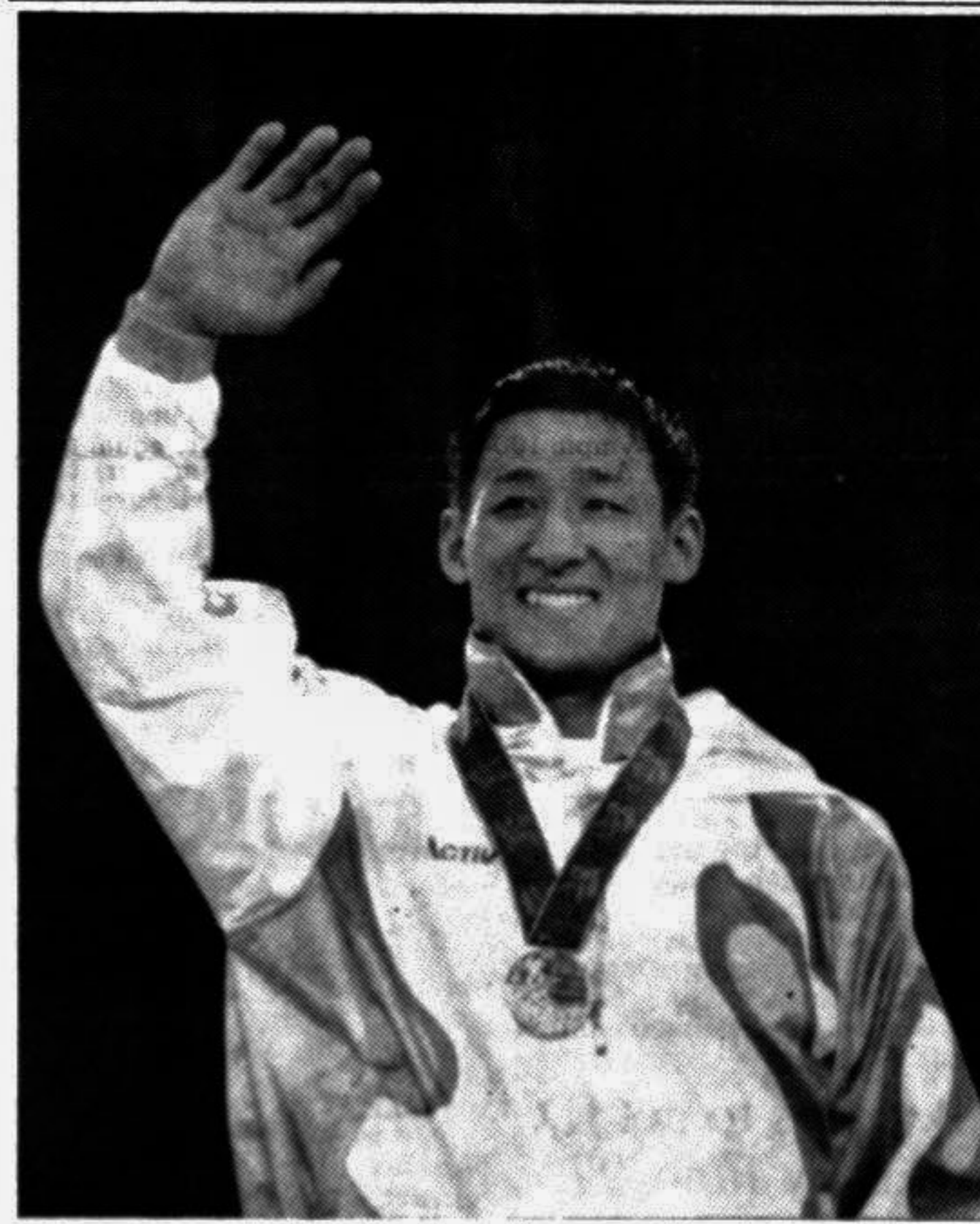
In another close game, Nikos Economou scored 36 points to lead Greece to an 89-87 win over Brazil. "This was the best game of my career as a national team player for my country," said Economou.

In other games, Yugoslavia overpowered Australia. Croatia outclassed China and Porto Rico nipped Korea.

Artem accrues air rifle gold

ATLANTA, July 23: Russian Artem Khadzhibekov won the air rifle gold on Monday after Austrian Wolfram Waibel became the latest leader to crack under pressure in the Olympic shooting finals, reports Reuter.

Khadzhibekov finished with 695.7 points to beat the Olympic final record of 695.3 shot by compatriot Juri Fedkin at Barcelona in 1992.



Two-time world champion Jeon Ki-young of South Korea waves to the crowd with his latest medal — the 85 kg judo gold — on July 22. — AFP/UNB photo

Olympics: What's on today

ATLANTA, July 23 (Reuter): Time-table for the fifth day of Olympics competition on Wednesday (all venues Atlanta unless stated, all times BST):

Swimming
8.05 pm: Men's 200 metres breaststroke preliminaries.
8.45 pm: Women's 200 metres individual medley preliminaries.

9.15 pm: Men's 100 metres butterfly preliminaries.
9.45 pm: Women's 4x100 metres medley relay preliminaries.

10.05 pm: Women's 800 metres freestyle preliminaries.
5:30 am (Thurs): Men's 200 metres breaststroke finals.

5:50 am: Women's 200 metres individual medley finals.
6:15 am: Men's 100 metres butterfly finals.

8:35 am: Women's 4x100 metres medley relay finals.

Soccer
Men's preliminaries
Group A
5:30 am (Thurs): Argentina v Tunisia (Birmingham, Alabama)
5:30 am (Thurs): United States v Portugal (Washington DC)

Group B
5:00 am (Thurs): Saudi Arabia v France (Miami, Florida)
5:00 am (Thurs): Spain v Australian (Orlando, Florida)

Gymnastics-artistic
7:05 pm: Men's individual all-round finals.
Hockey
Men's preliminaries
7:00 pm: United States v India
3:30 am (Thurs): Spain v Argentina

6:00 am (Thurs): Germany v Pakistan
Shooting
6:30 pm: Women's 50-metre standard rifle qualifying.
7:00 pm: Men's double trap qualifying.
8:00 pm: Men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol qualifying.
10:00 pm: Women's 50-metre standard rifle finals.
12:30 am (Thurs): Men's double trap finals.

CENTENNIAL GAMES CHIPS

TURNER TAKEN
ABACK

ATLANTA, July 23 (AP): A new security guard on duty at CNN headquarters for the Atlanta Olympics stood firm — rather than starstruck — when the boss, Ted Turner, failed to produce an identity badge.

The guard refused to allow him past a security desk at the CNN Center, where Turner's media empire is based.

"The guard was performing his duty as he had been instructed to, and that was, you need an (identity card)," Turner spokesman Michael Djesby said Monday.

Turner, who has a penthouse apartment at CNN Center with his wife, actress Jane Fonda, was stopped by the guard Friday morning.

How could even a new member of Turner's security force not recognise the boss? Perhaps because of Turner's new beard, Djesby said.

Turner took the snub fairly well and found a guard who knew him on sight, extra facial hair and all.

The guard who challenged Turner, by the way, still has his job.

SHOPPING MANIA

A party of more than 20 shoppers who identified themselves as Malaysian royalty spent 100,000 dollars on Olympic memorabilia in an after-hours shopping spree at the Superstore, a special shop set up at the Centennial Olympic Park.

"They bought the same thing as everyone else but in much bigger quantities," says Roderick Kendrick, the assistant store manager. "They would buy 100 of these, 25 of these."

Some of the items purchased by the delegation, which was let in after the store closed Saturday night, were T-shirts, towels, pillows, bathrobes, umbrellas — any-



MEDALS TABLE

ATLANTA, July 23: Medals table after the third day of competition at the Atlanta Olympics on Monday: (tabulated under gold, silver bronze):

Country	G	S	B	Total
Russia	7	2	2	11
United States	4	9	2	15
Poland	4	1	0	5
China	3	4	3	10
France	3	3	5	11
South Korea	3	1	0	4
Turkey	3	0	0	3
Italy	2	2	2	6
Belgium	2	0	1	3
Ireland	2	0	0	2
Australia	1	0	3	4
South Africa	1	0	1	2
Costa Rica	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	1	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	0	1
New Zealand	1	0	0	1
Germany	0	5	7	12
Greece	0	2	0	2
Belarus	0	2	1	3
Cuba	0	2	1	3
Brazil	0	1	2	3
Sweden	0	1	1	2
Austria	0	1	0	1
Japan	0	1	0	1
Spain	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	1	0	1
Bulgaria	0	0	4	4
Hungary	0	0	3	3
Netherlands	0	0	3	3
Canada	0	0	2	2
Ukraine	0	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	1

the champ

QUIPS & QUOTES

ATLANTA, July 23 (AP): A selection of quotes at the Atlanta Olympics on the third day of competition on Monday:

"I'm getting a little older, but I want to continue." Naim Suleymanoglu, Turkey's "Pocket Hercules," after becoming the first weightlifter to win three straight Olympic golds.

"You can't stop people making allegations. I am happy with my medal and that is what is important." Ireland's swimming double gold medalist Michaelie Smith, on rumors that she used performance-enhancing drugs.

"I didn't go out fast enough. I'm upset. I'm disappointed. I trained four years for this. But also, no one can take away what I've done." World record holder Janet Evans of the United States, who failed to qualify in the 400 freestyle won by Smith.

"I have lost jump. I have lost quickness. But I have gained more confidence." Oscar Schmidt, 38, the scoring machine of Brazil's basketball team.

"It is very risky trying to get to the venue. We are much better off this way." Jose Maria de Marco of Spain, explaining why he and some other rowers moved out of the Olympic Village to hotels nearer the course on Lake Lanier to avoid the Games' troubled-plagued bus service.

"We stood in the middle of the road and stopped all of the buses getting through in order to commandeer the first bus." British rower Allison Gill, who helped waylay a bus to get to training.

"I believe that there is a jinx between us so that if Jeon won, I felt that I could win." South Korean judoka Cho Min-sun, after she and compatriot Jeon Mi-young won golds, following their winning pattern from two World Championships.

"Our Athens, with 4 1/2 million people, has problems in it that require a lot of work. That's why I want to propose we change posts for one year." Athens, Greece, Mayor Dimitris Avramopoulos to Athens, Georgia, Mayor Gwen O'Looney.

"There's only three teams that can beat us — Croatia, Lithuania and Yugoslavia. The rest of them, no matter how bad we play, we'll beat them." Charles Barkley of the Dream team of US professional basketball players.

Sanchez, 17, of Kauai, Hawaii. Ms Mills said she's not sure any criminal activity was involved, since the students did not pay the companies any money. But the Georgia Bureau of Investigation has been asked to look into the situation, she said.

The companies recruited about 3,000 teenagers and young adults to work at kiosks, selling souvenirs and other products during the Olympics. Mills said.

GUNMAN HELD
A man carrying a gun and a knife slipped past security at the Olympic Stadium less than two hours before the opening ceremony. Atlanta police said Monday.

The man, wearing a security uniform, was arrested inside the stadium Friday night after he failed to show an identification badge when asked by security officers, police spokesman John Quigley told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspaper.

"One Atlanta police department officer noticed he was in uniform carrying a weapon but looked suspicious," the newspaper quoted Quigley as saying.

AMERICANS
The storm turned out to be nothing serious, though, as skies cleared and the teams took the field to play the match. The US team won 2-0.

STUDENT SCANDAL
Georgia officials are investigating companies that allegedly promised Olympic jobs and housing to about 3,000 students but left them stranded without work or a place to stay.

Investigators are questioning officials of two companies that recruited the students and two others that hired the recruiting companies, said Carolyn Mills of the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs.

"I never want to come back again. All of us are just really disgusted," said Shani

Planicka passes away
PRAGUE, Czech Republic, July 23: Ezech soccer player Frantisek Planicka, considered the best goalie of the 1930s, has died at age 92, a Czech newspaper said Monday, reports AP.

Planicka, captain of the Czechoslovak team that finished second in the world championship in Rome in 1934, died in a Prague hospital "after a long illness," the daily Mlada Fronta Dnes said.