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### Sprinters heat the track





ATLANTA. July 26: Reigning champion Linford Christie emerged as the major loser here on Friday as the world's top sprinters took aim at each other at the start of their 100m Olympic shootout, re-port agencies.

Most of the world's fast men were doing their best to hide their hand in the first of four races inside two days.

But the British runner could not hide his lack of finishing speed as he lost to Brazilian Andre Silva.

Christie, as impressive as usual as he gazed impassively down the track before the gun, was clearly easing down as he lost a photo-finish, but his time of 10.26sec betrayed a worrying loss of pinch — par-ticularly when compared with Trinidadian Ato Boldon, who clocked a Blistering 10.06. The man who did the most

comouflaging on Friday was Frankie Fredericks. The Namibian, who missed the world record by one hun-

dredth of a second at Lausanne earlier this month, was out of his blocks like lightning but then eased up so early that he had to accelerate again to make sure of qualifying in 10.32.

World champion Donovan Bailey, meanwhile, clocked the same time but the rangy Canadian, like Boldon, looked as if he was out for an afternoon stroll.

Gail Devers gave a timely reminder that it will be no easy matter to take her Olympic sprint title away when she clocked by far the fastest time in the first round of the women's 100 metres.

Racing in the seventh and last heat, Devers burst out of the blocks and powered away from the rest of the field to clock 10.92 seconds, a time only she and fellow-American rival Gwen Torrence have

beaten this season. Racing into a slight headwind, Devers finished three metres ahead of Nigerian Mary Onyali, who came in second in 11.17 seconds.

Torrence, winner of the world title last year and favourite to capture the gold medal in her home town, had a comfortable enough victory in her heat, finishing in 11.11 seconds.

The 31-year-old Atlantan was clearly quickest out of the blocks and enjoyed an easy win, easing up over the final five metres after glancing to her left to make sure she could not be caught.

Jamaican Merlene Ottey, grand lady of world sprinting but still seeking an elusive first Olympic gold at the age of 36, underlined her intentions with an expected win in her heat. clocking 11.13 seconds.

The second fastest time of the morning session was set by Jamaican Juliet Cuthbert. Olympic silver medalist four years ago in Barcelona, who crossed the line in 11.06 sec-

The most disappointing run came from the Barcelona bronze medalist Irina Primvalova of Russia, who ran sluggishly to place third in a modest 11.42 seconds in a heat won by Chandra Sturruptf the Bahamas.

Privalova, who has hardly raced on the international circuit this season, still qualified for the second round later today. The semifinals and final are on Saturday.

holder over both 3,000 and

10.000m, could pull it off,

however, she would earn ev-

erybody's admiration - partic-

tional Amateur Athletic Feder-

ation for not readjusting the

women timetable and said it

was impossible for any woman

distance runner — including

their own Derartu Tulu — to

recover between races and at-

tempt both distances.

Ethiopian coach Wolde Meske

Kostire even suggested only a

flected in the fact that some of

the double-seekers are already

The scale of the task is re-

robot could manage it.

They accused the Interna-

ularly that of the Ethiopians.



THE GOLDEN SMILE: 16-year-old US swimmer Brooke Bennett at the victory stand after winning the 800m freestyle at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Centre on July 25 in a time of 8:27.89. - AFP/UNB photo

## Trouble for the double





ATLANTA, July 26: A string of the world's top athletics stars are asking for double trouble at the Atlanta Olym-

Many, according to their rivals, will regret the decision. Michael Johnson heads the list of competitors taking up the challenge of trying to win two individual titles, something no one managed at Barcelona four years ago.

The American takes pride of place among the contenders if only because the entire Games programme had to be redrafted to accommodate

"Norman has ever won the 200 and 400m titles. Johnson, however, produced the perfect dress rehearsal at the World Championships last year.

Butch Reynolds, the 400m world record holder, and Frankie Fredericks, the world silver medalist who will himself attempt a 100/200m double have both questioned whether the schedule should have been changed for one person.

Johnson, however, argues: We need to develop heroes in

ATLANTA, July 26: In the-

ory, Saturday's 100m Olympic

final will last less than ten sec-

onds. Blink and you'll miss it.

In reality, however, the race.

the Russian roulette of the

Games, began months ago, re-

warfare was declared, and it

will continue right up to the

Games lends itself more to

mind games, both because of

the nature of the event and the

There are no second

chance in the race - "One

says Namibian favourite

Frankie Fredericks - while

100m sprinters stand as a

director of coaching, explains:

The nearest thing to a world-

class sprinter is a thorough-

bred recehorse. They have the

so on the edge that to call

them showmen would be to

trivialise what they do.

Physically, they're pretty per-

fect specimens. In mental

terms, they are remarkable.

The hope surrounding a big

race these days is like that

surrounding a world heavy-

Linford Christie adds: "sprin-

ters are very aggressive peo-

ple. Hurdlers for example can

talk to each other. Sprinters

cannot. Hurdlers go against the

barriers but sprinter go

distinct psychological steps

before a 100m showpiece.

First comes the war of words.

Bailey, the Canadian who de-

posed Christie last year, set

the ball rolling in January by

Then, when Christie re-

fused to confirm whether he

There seem to be three

World champion Donovan

British reigning champion

"They're highly tuned and

Frank Dick, Britain's former

mistake and you're history.

sound of the starting gun.

competitors themselves.

That's the way psychological

No head-to-head in the

ports AFP.

bread apart.

same prickliness.

weights title fight."

against each other.

"I don't feel like I have to defend myself. If I were a

competitor of mine. I would be happy because now there is more work for me to do. I have eight race that week. They. have four."

Johnson, pound-for-pound the most explosive athlete in the world, has every chance of succeeding. If anything, the heat and Atlanta's fast track should help him.

The same cannot be said of Ethiopian Haile Gebreselassie and Wang Junxia of China, the world's premier distance run-

Both are lined up for a 5,000m and 10,000m double and both will have phenomenal problems to overcome, with the humidity and the bonehard surface at the Atlanta Centennial Stadium counting

become the first man to emulate compatriot Miruts Yifter's double at the 1980 Moscow Games, has the easier schedule, with a day's rest between his events.

Shah warns: "I don't think he can manage to do it. I think it's very tough to try it, and there are a lot of people running very Wang, the one survivor from

controversial coach Ma Junren's famous "army" or runners, has an even tougher task with three outings, including the final of the 5,000m, over the first three days If Wang, the world record

in difficulties, even before the start. heavily against them.

Maria Mutola, so impressive over 800m and the world Gebreselassie, bidding to number one even though she was disqualified in Gothenburg for running out of lane, wanted to attempt the 1,500m as well but was well beaten over the distance in two warm-up races. Both Moroccan rival Khalid

Britain's Kelly Holmes, a world medalist over both distances, had identical ambitions, only to be advised by Algerian 1,500m world champion Hassiba Boulmerka not to take the risk.

"He has her views and she can keep them," responded Holmes, since when she has discovered she is suffering from the start of a stress fracture which could wreck her

# Agassi, Seles sail





STONE MOUNTAIN GOOT gia, July 26: Top tennis seeds Monica Seles and Andre Agassi of the United States each won straight-set matches Thursday to advance in the Olympic tennis tournament, report agen-

Agassi defeated Kucera 6-4. 6-4 to advance to a thirdround meeting with Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi A single break in each set

was all Agassi needed to maintain the momentum and score the victory, winning the match with a smash that Kucera lobbed back deep. Agassi's serve helped him

dominate in the match. "Not losing my serve is a big sign" he said, describing his

performance as "one step up if not two from the last match." Agassi is on standby to play doubles for the United States if teammate Richey Reneberg is not well enough on Friday.

Agassi would partner Malivai Washington, a task he is happy to undertake even if it jeopardises his chances in singles. Seles became the first player to reach the third round by beating Patricia Hy-Boulais of Canada 6 3, 6 2. Seles served seven aces and hit 26

winners to just 11 for Hy-Boulais, ranked 60th in the world. She next plays Gabriela Sabatini, seeded 13, swept past Angelica Gavaldon of Mex

ico 6-4. 6-0. Third seeded Arantxa Santhez Vicario of Spain beat Italy's Silvia Farina 6-1, 6-2.

Wimbledon semifinalist Kimiko Date of Japan, seeded eighth, beat Hungary's Virag Csurgo 6-2, 6-2, and compatriot Ai Sugiyama upset 15thseeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland 6-5, 6-4,

In other men's 7 action defending champion Marc Rosset looked lethargic in his 7-6, 7-5 victory over unseeded Dane Frederik Fetterlein.

Third-seeded Thomas Enqvist of Sweden also survived an unexpected struggle with Armenia's Sargis Sargsian before winning 4-6, 7-6, 6-4, Enqvist saved a match point at 5.4 in the second set with a forehand return winner.

#### Suprianto stays on course

ATLANTA, July 26: Top. seed Joko Suprianto of In-donesia crushed Finland's Pontus Jantti 15-1, 15-5 Thursday to reach the last 16 of the men's singles in the Olympic badminton championship, reports AP,

Second seed Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen of Denmark, who placed fifth at the 1992 Games in Barcelona, also cruised into the third round by downing Vladislav Druzchenko of Ukraine, 15-7, 15-6. Another leading contender

in action Thursday, fifth seed Korean Sung Park Woo. overpowered Jeng Shyong Chang of Taiwan, 15-5, 15-3 Denmark's Thomas Stuer-

Lauridsen, unseeded this time despite winning the bronze medal in Barcelona, fought through a tough first set against Austria's Hannes Fuchs before advancing 15-12, 15-5.

South Korea's traditionally strong women's doubles teams won their preliminary round matches. Park Soo Yun and Chung

Jae Hee were easy winners over Taipei's Tsai Huey Min and Chen Li Chin 15-7 and 15-6 Kim Shin Young and Kim Mee Hyang, also were straight set winners, defeating Japan's Aiko Miyamura and Aikiko Miyamura 15-12, and

South Korean teams placed first and fourth in the 1992 Games in Barcelona. In men's doubles, China's

strong team of Tao Xiaoqiang and Ge Chnag defeated Britain's Peter Knowles and Darren Hall 15-2 and 15-3.

#### Shooting gold for China

ATLANTA, July 26: Li Duihong of China won the gold medal in the women's 25 metres sports pistol shooting at the Olympics today, reports Reuter.

Diana Yorgova of Bulgaria won the silver and Marina Loqvinenko of Russia took the bronze.

#### Perez pockets Ecuador's first

ATLANTA, July 26: Jefferson Perez won Ecuador's first ever Olympic medal when he raced home in the last kilometre to win the men's 20-km walk on the opening day of the athletics programme today. reports Reuter.

Perez, the reigning Pan-American champion, completed the course in perfect walk weather — cool and cloudy - in one hour 20 minutes 07 seconds to take the first athletics gold ahead of Russian Ilya Markov, took the silver in 1:20.16.

Bernardo Segurea of Mexico, the world record holder, took bronze in 1:20.23.

#### Brazil book gtrs berth

ATLANTA, July 26: Brazil may have goofed up last week against Japan. But when places in the Olympic men's soccer quarterfinals were decided Thursday, the South Americans qualified while Japan were out, reports AP.

Brazil got a first-half strike from Ronaldo to beat Nigeria 1-0 and win Group C. Even though Japan edged Hungary to finish with an identical record as Brazil and Nigeria. their mediocre goal difference sent then packing.

It was redemption for Brazil, who had brought shame on the soccer-mad nation by losing to Japan 1-0 in the tournament's opening match. In Group C. South Korea, the other Asian nation that will organise the 2002 World Cup with Japan, suffered a similar

fate as the Japanese. South Korea were a minute away from reaching the quar-terfinals but a late strike from Marco Branca gave Italy, who were already eliminated, a 2-1 win that forced out the Kore-

at the same time, allowing both nations to advance from Group C. In Sunday's quarterfinal ac-

Mexico and Ghana tied 1-1

tion, Mexico will play Nigeria in Birmingham, Alabama, and Brazil meet Ghana in Miami. In the other quarterfinals Saturday, France play Portugal

and Argentina meet Spain.

Brazil's break came in the 31st minute when Ronaldo was in the right place following a goalmouth scramble. His opportunistic strike from the edge of the area proved enough.

Last-minute goals for Japan by Masakiyo Maezono and late substitute Kenichi Uemura were not enough to qualify. even though they lifted the Japanese over Hungary with an improbable 3-2 win.

In Washington, Mexico's Pavel Pardo deflected a ball into his net for an own goal that nearly eliminated his team. But later, he provided a picture-perfect pass that helped tie the scores.

In women's matches Sissi scored off the right goal post in the 53rd minute and Brazil tied Germany 1-1 on Thursday to advance to the guarterfinal round. Meanwhile, a showdown

turned out to be a scoreless workout as the unbeaten United States drew 0-0 with undefeated China.



#### MEDALS TABLE

ATLANTA, July 26: Medals table after the sixth day of competition at the Atlanta Olympics on Thursday (tabulated under gold, silver bronze):

Country	G	s	В	Tota
Russia	13	7	5	0.000
United States	12	16	4	3:
France	7	16 4 5 4 3 8	7	ĭ
China	5	5	6	1
Italy	5	4	4	i
Poland	5	3	ż	î
Germany	3	8	11	2
Cuba	5 5 5 3 3 3 3 3 3 2 2 2 2	4	**************************************	1
South Korea	3	4	$\tilde{2}$	
Australia	3	2	7	
Hungary	3	2	5 2 7 5	î
Turkey	3	0	ĩ	145
Ireland	3	0	Ô	9
Japan	2	4 2 2 0 0 3	0 2 2 2	
Belgium	2	1	$\bar{2}$	1
Ukraine	2	0	$\bar{2}$	
New Zealand	2	0	ī	
South Africa	2	0	1	
Romania	1	2	3	í
Kazakhstan	ì	2 1	1	
Yugoslavia	1	0	1	
Armenia	1	0	0	
Costa Rica	1	0	O	3
Belarus	0	3	2	
Bulgaria	. 0	3 2 2	4	(
Finland	0	2	O	
Greece	0	2	0	2
Brazil	0	1	4	
Canada	0	1	3	4
North Korea	0	1	1	
Spain	0	1	1	
Sweden	0 0 0	1	1	2
Austria		1	0	30
Britain	0	1	0	8
Uzbekistan	0	1	0 5	
Netherlands	0 0 0	0	5	
Georgia	0	0	1	Site out
Moldova		0	1	25
Slovakia	0	0	1	76

Note: Two bronze medals awarded in judo. Two bronze medals awarded in artistic gymnastics women's individual all-round competition.



especially at this kind of level. It's not like he's been at this level every other day like the Cubans have. It's not like he the end of the world for him."

that coming down." Andre Agassi, when a flock of geese interrupted his tennis match with droppings from overhead.

'I cried so much before the ceremony that when I arrived at the podium, the emotion was almost gone." Italian cyclist Andrea Collinelli, after winning the individual pursuit gold.

"Victory over Yugoslavia would be sweeter than any other, but we must not let our emotions take over. We don't need extra motivation. It could ruin our concentration"

Croatian water polo captain Perica Bukic Being world champion and world record holder is wonderful but I know from the feeling inside me just how much

bigger this is compared with anything else." Triple jumper Jonathan Edwards on how important an Olympic gold medal is to him.

We told her we were very proud of her and that it was a very brave and courageous thing she did and she should re-

member that for the rest of her life." Kerri Strug's mother on her daughter's decision to finish competing in the gymnastics despite having a severely sprained ankle.

"At its worst, the sport can result in serious, lifeendangering physical and emotional disabilities," US doctors writing in the New England journal of

medicine about gymnastics. "The girls love it and they love the pressure. It is a dog fight and they are there to win."

Former Olympic champion Mary Lou Retton, now working as a commentator. "She went through the press conference then and the American press gave her another grilling ... the only thing that I can say is that they have been sinews.

Michelle Smith's father on suggestions by the Americans that she won three gold medals in swimming because she was on drugs. What Michelle has done is a truly stupendous achievement. I believe Irish women in particular \_ but Irish people

regardless of gender — are very proud to be compatriots of Michelle today." Irish Prime Minister John Bruton after Michelle Smith won her third gold swimming medal.

"Well, first place was pretty well sealed. I tried for second."

Whitney Hedgepeth of the United States, runner up to five-time Olympic gold medalist Krisztina Egerszegi in the 200m backstroke.

### CENTENNIAL GAMES CHIPS

Olympic diary for today:

ATLANTA, July 26 (AFP)

#### AUSSIES PLAY WAITING GAME When the Australian men's basketball team were told their

bus would be late in arriving after a practice at Morehouse College, players went in search of outdoor noops in the area for an informal workout But security guards told the

team that the surrounding neighbourhood was "too dangerous" for them to be wander-'s So the team was sent to a classroom to wait. And wait. And wait.

And they waited nearly three hours before escaping back to the athletes Village.

#### **MUTOMBO, ZAIRE'S** HERO

National basketpail associa tion star Dikembe Mutombo, a centre from Zaire who signed a 56 million-dollar contract with the Atlanta Hawks earlier this month, is using some of his new money to aid Zaire Olympians.

Mutombo has spent 15,000 dollars to help the Zaire women's basketball team here for the Games. The money went for 15 pairs of shoes, two sets of uniforms for the opening ceremony. Tor my players, Dikembe's

gift is a pride thing. It is very patriotic. He has helped the country immensely." Zaire coach Mongamaluku Mozingo

#### OF A GYPSY LIFE

It's been a heady week for Irish boxer Francis Barrett last Friday he carried his country's flag at the Olympic opening ceremony and Wednesday he defeated Brazilian Zely Ferreira to win his opening bout.

But the questions American reporters wanted to ask after the fight, were not about his massive 32-7 points victory. but his life as a traveller (gypsy) in Ireland.

"I'm the first traveller from Ireland to fight here and I carried the flag. My biggest memory was walking down the track and all the people cheering," said Barrett, who lives with his parents and 11 brothers and sisters in Galway.

#### DREAM TEAM'S FIRST TUMBLE

The United States Olympic basketball "Dream Team" has

suffered its first major injury And Karl Malone's pinky might never be the same. The Utah Jazz forward cut his right pinky finger on the

rim while blocking a shot in a 104-82 triumph Wednesday over Lithuania. The gash required seven

stitches to close and might keep him out until Sunday's preliminary round closer against Croatia.

#### UNCEREMONIUS OLYMPIC SPIRIT

A stony handshake from International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch and a souvenir key ring seemed little reward for cycling to Atlanta from the Olympics birthplace in Athens, but for Chinese journalist Po Fanzhou it was good enough.

"It was a very special moment," the 39-year-old sport reporter said after his meeting with Samaranch, who appeared to have other things on his mind than individual displays of the Olympic spirit.

Po. who set off on his bicycle from Athens on June 28 plans to visit every city in the world that has hosted the modern Olympics, wrapping up his trip in Sydney-site for the 2000 Games.



Tennis 8:00 pm: Men's and women's singles, third round. Men's and women's doubles, second round. Volleyball (Men) 8:00 pm: Russia vs Italy at 10:30 pm: Yugoslavia vs 2:00 am (Sun): Argentina vs

claiming the British runner had faked a hamstring injury in Gothenburg after losing his 8:00 am: South Korea vs

Tunisia at Omni Coliseum.

hopes of even a single gold. Of the sizzling seconds

> there to make my victory legitimate. And by June, American Jon Drummond was saying the US sprinters planned to "kick

would come to Atlanta, Tri-

nidadian newcomer Ato Boldon

piped up. "I need him to be

#### Olympics: What's on today

round.

7:15pm: Women's heptathlon, 100m hurdles 8:00 pm: Men's 800m, first

8:30 pm: Women's heptathlon, high jump 9:00 pm: Women's 400m. second round. 9:30 pm: Men's hammer

throw, qualifying. 11:00 pm: Men's hammer throw, qualifying. 4:30 am (Sun): Women's heptathlon, shot put.

jump, finals. 5:15 am (Sun): Women's 100m. semifinals. 5:35 am (Sun): Men's 100m. semifinals 5:55 am (Sun): Men's

400m, second round.

Quarterfinals

Hockey (Men) 7:00 pm: Malaysia vs Aus-3:30 am (Sun): South Africa

Portugal (Miami) 5:30 am (Sun): Argentina vs Spain (Birmingham)

Soccer (Men)

Omni Coliseum. Netherlands at Omni Coliseum. Cuba at U of Georgia.

4:30 am (Sun): Bulgaria vs Poland at U of Georgia. 5:30 am (Sun): Brazil vs United States at Omni Coli-

some Canadian butt at the

Lewis's butt left, right and centre. He's just an empty vessel making a lot of noise." or again, "Burrell is chasing

brawl.

Christie has been quiet this money I'm chasing champi-

onships If he needed another hatefigure to get the adrenal in flowing, he would round on the press, just as he did at Heathrow last year when he all but enticed them into a

Games, Bailey winning that particular round by replying: I'll turn around for him. time, but previously he liked to trade barbs with the Americans — Linford who?" they would say, while he would reply in kind "I've kicked



BEATEN IN HER OWN GAME: Olympic gold medalist Marie Claire Restoux (R) of France shows the oriental Sook-Hee Hyun of South Korea how it is done in the half-heavyweight 52 kg judo final at the Georgia World Congress Centre in Atlanta on July 25. - AFP/UNB photo

