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America keeps amassing

ATLANTA, July 28: Spurred on by determination that terrorist bombers must not win, the Olympics went ahead Saturday. The immediate reward was a world record 100-metre run of 9.84 seconds by Canada's Donovan Bailey, reports AP.

The enthusiastic crowd also saw a photo finish in the women's 100m, with defending gold medalist Gail Devers edging Jamaica's Merlene Ottey and American teammate Gwen Torrence. Devers and Ottey both were timed in 10.94 and Torrence in 10.96. Before Devers, the last woman to repeat as Olympic 100m champion was Wyomia Tyus in 1964-68.

Another of the day's winners was British rower Steven Redgrave, who became only the fourth athlete to capture gold medals at four straight Games.

In the main stadium, there was sadness of a different kind. Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the heptathlon gold medalist in the last two Olympics, shed tears after a right hamstring injury forced her out of the chase for a third consecutive triumph.

American Kenny Harrison set an Olympic record of 18.09 metres (59 feet, 4 1/4 inches) in winning the triple jump gold medal. Britain's Jonathan Edwards, the world record holder, won silver with 17.88 (58-8).

With their two track and field golds Saturday, the Americans led the overall gold standings by 18.

Russia had 14 after weightlifter Alexei Petrov's vic-

tory in the 91-kilogram (200.5-pound) division.

Petrov won the 1995 World Championships, but then tested positive for a banned substance. His lifetime suspension was lifted after a former girlfriend confessed to slipping the substance into his food.

France had 10 golds thanks to three Saturday. Australia, China and Italy each had seven, but China was a likely winner in women's platform diving, scheduled later Saturday night.

Finland, won its first gold of these Games on Heli Rantanen's javelin throw of 67.94 metres (222 feet-11 inches).

French cyclists now have won four golds and a silver in five finals. In Saturday's two gold-medal races, Felicia Balenger beat Australia's Michelle Ferris in the women's sprint, and the men's pursuit team defeated Russia, winning in Olympic record time.

France's other winner Saturday was shooter Jean-Pierre Amat, who had gone through three previous Olympics with no medals. With an Olympic record score of 1,267.4, he won the 50-metre free rifle three-position event.

Italy's Ennio Falco, who missed only 150 targets over two days, won in skeet shooting.

In one of the day's seven gold-medal rowing races, Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent won the coxless pairs for a second straight Olympics, beating Australians David Weightman and Robert Scott by a deck length. Redgrave won golds in 1984 and 1988 with different partners.

The only other athletes with golds in four successive Olympics are Danish Yachtsman Paul Elvstrom, Hungarian fencer Aladar Gerevich and American discus thrower Al Oerter.

Australians took two golds. Megan Still and Kate Slatter, the world champions, won the women's coxless pairs and teammates took the men's coxless four.

In the single sculls, Yekaterina Khodotovich of Belarus won the women, gold and Xenio Mueller of Switzerland the men's.

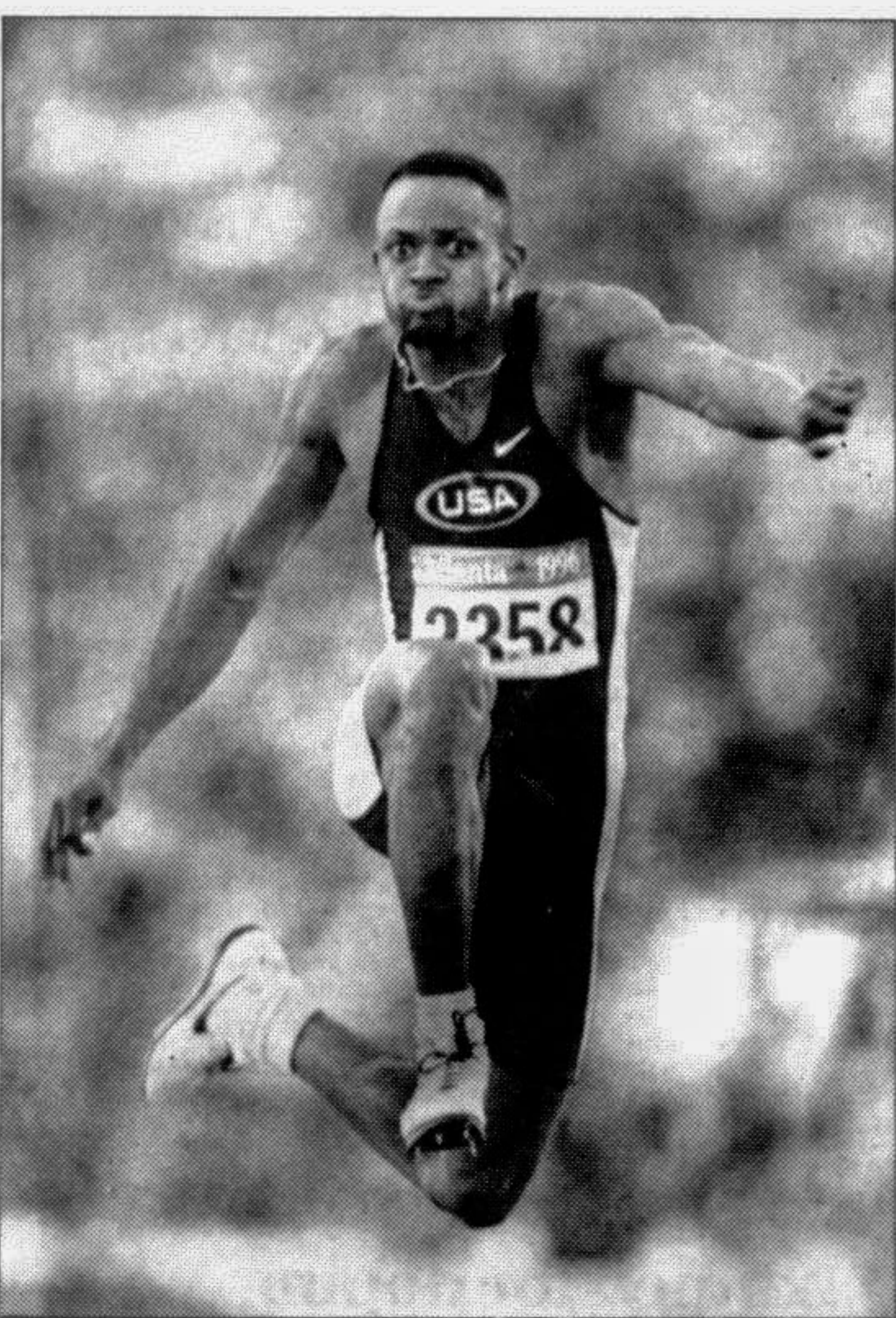
The doubles sculls winners were Italy's David Tizzano and Agostino Abbaganale in the men's race and Canada's Marnie McBean and Kathleen Heddlie in the women's.

In rougher currents, the divided halves of the former Czechoslovakia each won a gold medal in whitewater slalom racing.

Slovakia's Michal Martikan, at 17 the youngest competitor to win an Olympic canoeing gold medal, edged defending champion Lukas Pollert of the Czech Republic in a men's canoe final.

But another Czech racer, Stepanka Hilgertova, won in women's kayak competition. American Dana Chladek came from next-to-last in a field of 30 to win the silver, and missed gold only by the penalty for a gate touch at the end.

For the first Olympic gold in beach volleyball, the final was all-Brazilian. Jackie Silva and Sandra Pires defeated Monica Rodrigues and Adriana Samuel, 12-11, 12-6.



Kenny Harrison of the United States unearths his richest vein of talents for the olive glory in the men's triple jump at the Olympic Stadium in Atlanta on July 27. Harrison won the gold with a leap of 18.09 metres. —AFP/UNB photo

Olympic tennis results

ATLANTA, July 28(AP): Tennis results at Atlanta Olympics on Saturday (seedings in parentheses):

Men's singles (3rd round)
Wayne Ferreira (5), South Africa def Todd Woodbridge, Australia, 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-5).
Andre Agassi (1), United States, def Andrea Gaudenzi, Italy, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.
Renzo Furlan (14), Italy def Marc Rosset, Switzerland, 6-0, 4-2, retired.

Thomas Enqvist, Sweden def Leander Paes, India, 7-5, 7-6 (7-3).

Doubles (2nd round)
Jiri Novak and Daniel Vacek, Czech Republic (5) def Pablo Campana and Nicolas Lapentti, Ecuador, 7-5, 6-4.
Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, Netherlands (3) def Claude N'Goran and Clement N'Goran, Ivory Coast, 6-4, 6-4.
Sasa Hirszon and Goran Ivanisevic, Croatia, def Mark Knowles and Roger Smith, Bahamas, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3.

Sergi Bruguera and Tomas Carbonell, Spain def Satoshi Iwabuchi and Takao Suzuki, Japan, 6-7 (1-7), 6-2, 7-5.

Marc-Kevin Goellner and David Prinosil, Germany def Byron Black and Wayne Black, Zimbabwe (8), 6-4, 7-6 (8-6).

Women's singles (3rd round)
Monica Seles (1), United States, def Gabriela Sabatini (13), Argentina, 6-3, 6-3.
Kimiko Date (8), Japan def Magdalena Maleeva, Bulgaria, 6-4, 6-4.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (3), Spain, def Brenda Schultz-McCarthy (11), Netherlands, 6-4, 7-6 (9-7).
Jana Novotna (6), Czech Republic def Ai Sugiyama, Japan, 6-3, 6-4.

Doubles (2nd round)
Gigi Fernandez and Mary Joe Fernandez (1), United States, def Mary Pierce and Nathalie Tauziat, France, 6-4, 6-3.

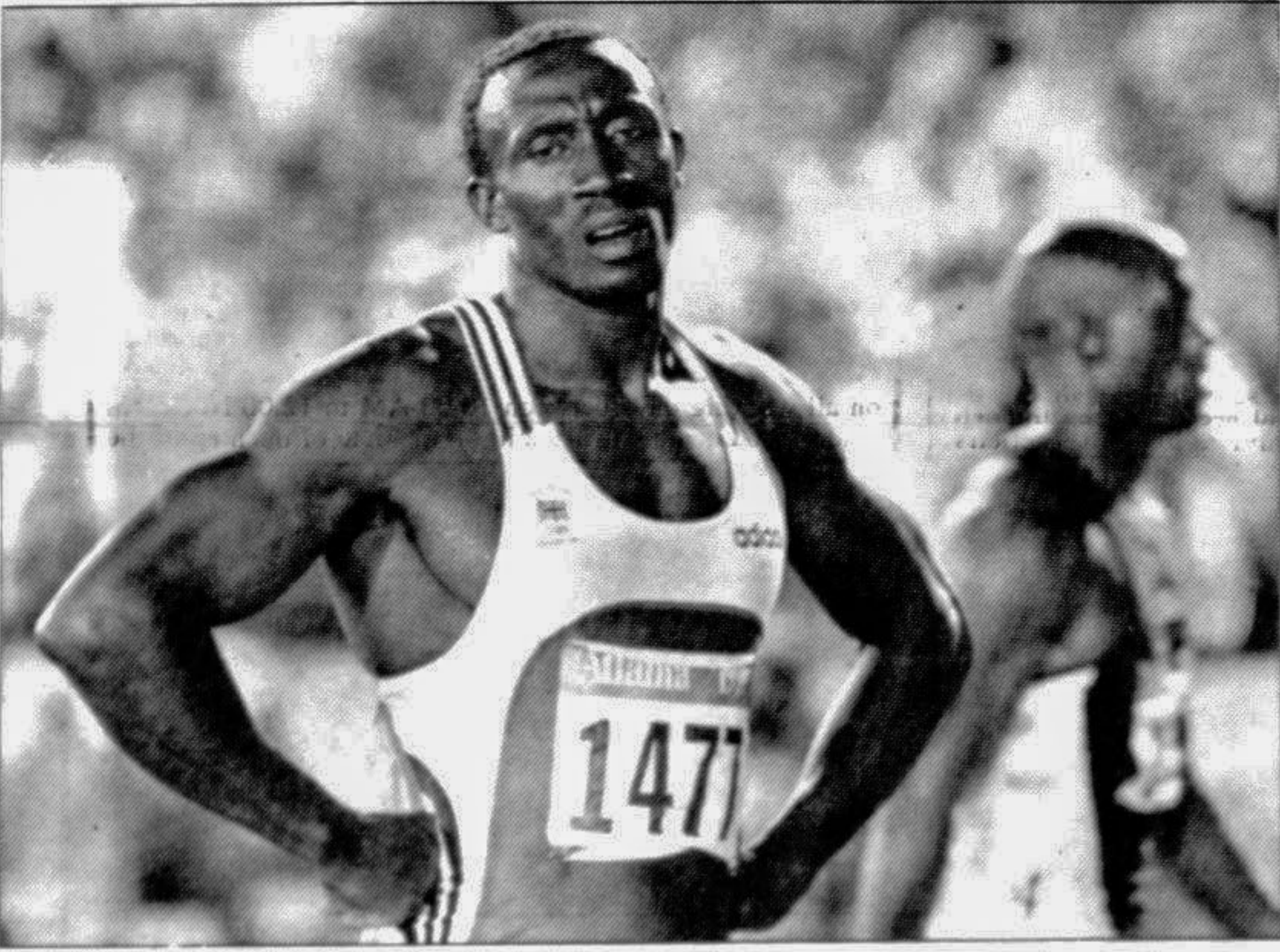
Jill Hetherington and Patricia Hy-Boulais, Canada def Olga Barabanshchikova and Natasha Zvereva, Belarus, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1.



MEDALS TABLE

ATLANTA, July 28 (Reuters): Medals table after the eighth day of competition at the Atlanta Olympics on Saturday (tabulated under gold, silver, bronze):

Country	G	S	B	Tot
United States	18	20	7	45
Russia	14	10	6	30
France	10	5	12	27
China	8	8	6	22
Australia	7	7	10	24
Italy	7	5	6	18
Poland	5	4	3	12
Germany	3	10	15	28
Cuba	3	4	7	14
Hungary	3	2	5	10
Japan	3	4	2	9
South Korea	3	4	2	9
New Zealand	3	1	1	5
Ireland	3	0	1	4
Turkey	3	3	3	9
Canada	2	3	3	8
Belgium	2	1	2	5
Ukraine	2	0	3	5
South Africa	2	0	1	3
Brazil	1	2	4	7
Belarus	1	3	2	6
Romania	1	2	3	6
Britain	1	2	2	5
Greece	1	3	0	4
Kazakhstan	1	2	1	4
Finland	1	2	0	3
Czech Republic	1	1	1	3
North Korea	1	1	1	3
Slovakia	1	0	1	2
Yugoslavia	1	0	1	2
Armenia	1	0	0	1
Costa Rica	1	0	0	1
Ecuador	1	0	0	1
Switzerland	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	0	3	4	7
Spain	0	1	2	3
Austria	0	1	1	2
Norway	0	1	1	2
Sweden	0	1	1	2
Jamaica	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	1	0	1
Netherlands	0	0	7	7
Denmark	0	0	1	1
Georgia	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Mongolia	0	0	1	1
Trinidad Tobago	0	0	1	1



A SAD FAREWELL. Linford Christie, the winner of the 1992 Barcelona 100m gold, expresses his sheer despair after being declared disqualified following successive false starts in the final dash of the 100m sprint at the Atlanta Olympic Stadium on July 27. — AFP/UNB photo

QUIPS & QUOTES

ATLANTA, July 28 (AP): Some notable quotes Saturday at the Atlanta Olympics.

"I felt the ground shake. Some people looked really messed up. There were rivers of blood."
Desmond Edwards, Atlanta schoolteacher, describing the terrorist bomb that killed one woman and injured more than 100 other people at Centennial Olympic Park.

"It's time for me to be joyous about what I did. But it's also a time for sadness. I want to extend my sympathies to the victims of the bombing and let them know they're definitely in my prayers."
Gail Devers, United States after winning the 100-metre sprint.

"This is for you too, Jamaica, man. I'm from Jamaica, just remember that."
Donovan Bailey, Canada, who set a world record in winning the men's 100 gold medal.

"It's a shame to go out that way. I'm just sorry for the people of Britain. If it was anywhere else other than the USA, I'm sure I would have been in there."
Linford Christie, Britain, after being disqualified from the 100-metre final for two false starts.

"That's enough. It's time for me to pull you. I'm no longer going to allow you to do this. This isn't a coach-and-athlete thing. This is your husband talking. It's time for you to go."
Coach Bob Kersee, withdrawing his injured wife Jackie Joyner-Kersey from the heptathlon.

"All my dreams came true that I've worked on for so long."
Michal Martikan, 17, of Slovakia, after winning gold in whitewater slalom canoe, the youngest to win an Olympic canoe race.

"I've had enough. This is definitely it. If anyone sees me near a boat, they can shoot me."
Britain's Steven Redgrave, after winning his fourth gold medal in the coxless pairs, only the fourth athlete to win at four straight Olympics.

Christie in depths of despair

ATLANTA, July 28: His final Olympic Games were ending in unimaginable agony, and Linford Christie refused to leave the track, report agencies.

The man who was once the world's fastest human suddenly was the world's most frustrated human.

This was not the kind of Olympic history that the 36-year-old British sprinter had in mind. On a crazy Saturday night, the defending gold medalist became the first runner ever disqualified from an Olympic 100 final for false starts.

"It's a shame to go out that way," he said. "I'm just sorry for the people of Britain. If it was anywhere else other than the USA, I'm sure I would have been in there." Ironically, Christie was the victim of a rule he had pushed for five years ago: to automatically call a false start if a runner leaves the starting blocks less than one-tenth of a second after the gun sounds.

After winning the 100 meters in Barcelona at age 32, he stood stone-faced at the start-

ing blocks in Atlanta among what many believed was the finest 100-metre field in Olympic history.

But then things began to go terribly wrong. He was called for a false start. No problem. That's happened before.

They got in the blocks again, started and got at least 20 metres down the track when the gun went off. This time Ato Boldon had broken early.

The took off a third time, and the gun went off ominously. Christie had done it again. He was out of the competition.

Boldon was furious that the British runner had refused to leave the track. Boldon, crying tears of frustration, added: "It's a disgrace. It's the worst final in Olympic history and I had to be in it."

He decided to hold up the whole thing and changed everyone's mental focus. He showed great disrespect."

Christie, who had run down the track after the race with his arms outstretched to the 84,000 spectators, then marched up and retorted: "I think you are really out of order. What do you mean, I did not show you respect?"

Frederickes, Christie's friend and training partner, then stepped in and pulled the two apart before Christie added: "Ato, he's a great athlete but he's young. Did I think I upset the other athletes? No I don't."

American Dennis Mitchell, who finished fourth, then chipped in: "That was the most unprofessional race I have ever seen in my life."

But Bailey said Christie's false starts had helped rather than hindered his concentration.

"I think it helped calm me down a bit. Maybe if the first start would have gone I would have not run such a clam race. I think it just helped me," the Canadian added.

Olympics: What's on today

ATLANTA, July 28 (Reuters): Timetable for the 10th day of Olympics competition on Monday (all venues Atlanta unless stated, all times BST):

Athletics
6:30 pm Women's 10-km walks final
7:30 pm Men's discus qualifying
7:45 pm Women's 100 metres hurdles first round
8:30 pm Women's triple jump qualifying
8:45 pm Men's 1,500 metres first round
9:50 pm Men's 400 metres hurdles first round
3:45 am Women's 100 metres hurdles second round
4:20 am Men's 110 metres hurdles semifinals
4:45 am (Tues): Women's discus final
4:50 am (Tues): Men's 800 metres semifinals
5:10 am (Tues): Men's long jump final
5:15 am (Tues): Women's 800 metres final
5:55 am (Tues): Women's 400 metres final
5:55 am (Tues): 3,000 metres steeplechase first round
6:50 pm Men's 110 metres hurdles final
6:10 pm Men's 400 metres final
6:30 pm Women's 400 metres hurdles semifinals
8:00 pm Men's 10,000 metres final

Hockey
Men's preliminaries
7:00 pm: Britain v Australia
7:30 am (Tues): Malaysia v South Korea
6:00 am (Tues): Netherlands v South Africa

Table Tennis
Men's singles final
7:00 pm: Britain v Australia
7:30 am (Tues): Malaysia v South Korea
6:00 am (Tues): Netherlands v South Africa

Weightlifting
Men's 55 kg final
7:00 pm: Britain v Australia
7:30 am (Tues): Malaysia v South Korea
6:00 am (Tues): Netherlands v South Africa

Badminton
Men's singles final
7:00 pm: Britain v Australia
7:30 am (Tues): Malaysia v South Korea
6:00 am (Tues): Netherlands v South Africa

Table Tennis
Men's singles final
7:00 pm: Britain v Australia
7:30 am (Tues): Malaysia v South Korea
6:00 am (Tues): Netherlands v South Africa

Weightlifting
Men's 55 kg final
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Table Tennis
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6:00 am (Tues): Netherlands v South Africa



China's Fu Mingxi exploits a nearly perfect elan on her way to win the 10m platform diving competition at Georgia Tech Aquatic Centre on July 27. — AFP/UNB photo

Wish spirit stay above

ATLANTA, July 28: Just as the Olympic Movement survived the 1972 Munich massacre, so will it withstand the terrorist tragedy in Atlanta 24 years later.

That was the consensus of Olympic officials Saturday after the explosion that rocked the Centennial Games and cast the pall of terrorism over the future of the world's most powerful sports movement, reports AP.

"We can't let things like this stop the one movement that has kept alive the hope of mankind for 100 years," said former UN ambassador Andrew Young, co-chairman of Atlanta's organising committee.

The 1972 massacre, in which Palestinian terrorists struck Israeli athletes and coaches in an attack that left 17 people dead, very nearly destroyed the Olympics and sent the Games reeling into a steep decline for 12 years.

The 1976 Montreal Games were overtaken by massive security precautions and burdened with a multi-million-dollar debt; the 1980 and 1984 Olympics were marred by political boycotts; the movement was so weak and so broke that Los Angeles was the only city willing to stage the '84 Games.

But the past 12 years have brought unprecedented success and riches for the Olympic movement. The International Olympic Committee has locked up billions of dollars in television revenues to guarantee its financial stability through the year 2010: a

record number of cities (11) are bidding for the 2004 games; the Atlanta Games are breaking records for participation.

Yet, the Atlanta bombing — directed right at the heart of the Olympic party crashing back to earth.

"It hits you in the gut," said Micki King, team leader of the US diving delegation in Atlanta who won a gold medal in the 3-metre springboard in Munich. "It's your worst fear. These athletes are trying for years for this moment and then some looney busts the bubble. It takes the essence of what's wonderful about the Olympics."

In 1972, IOC president Avery Brundage decided that the Munich Games would continue following the deaths of the Israelis.

This time, the decision was up to IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch and his executive board. The answer was the same: the Games must go on.

"You don't close the expressways because of an automobile accident," Young said. "You deal with drunken drivers and sick folks without curtailing the freedom of average people."

Within minutes of the bombing at 1:25 am, ACOG chief operating officer AD Francis called IOC director general Francois Carrard. He woke up Samaranch, and a conference call with White House and law enforcement agencies was quickly arranged.

By around 2 am, a prelimi-

nary decision was made to continue with the Games. At 6 am Samaranch convened an emergency meeting of the 11-member executive board, which ratified the decision.

Australian executive board member Keyan Gosper said there were three options: call off the Games, delay them or continue.

"We moved almost immediately to continuing," he said.

Anita DeFrantz, a board member from the United States, said there was never any serious consideration given to halting the Games.

"We felt it was essential to keep the Games going," she said. "The bombing did not take place at an Olympic sports venue. It was a horrible, horrible thing. But we were pretty certain that the sports venues are really secured."

Jim Easton, another IOC member from the United States, said it was the correct decision.

"You can not let the terrorists win," he said. "Life is not without risks. We have a free country. There are a lot of risks we accept for that freedom."

The blast will affect security preparations for the next three Olympic sites: Nagano (winter 1998), Sydney (summer 2000) and Salt Lake City (winter 2002).

"It's a very good lesson for us," Nagano spokesman Akira Hashimoto said.

Sydney organisers said they will consider creating a giant security zone covering all main venues in the light of the Atlanta blast.

For whom the bell tolls

ALBANY, July 28: (Reuters): Alice Hawthorne was so enthralled by the grandeur of the Olympics that she and her 14-year-old daughter Fallon made the 180-mile (290-km) drive north from Albany to Atlanta to see it for themselves.

But the journey ended in bloody tragedy on Saturday when a homemade pipe bomb, bound with nails and screws and stuffed into the bottom of a knapsack, killed the 44-year-old woman and left her child on a hospital operating table.

Hawthorne was one of two people who died in the attack at the Centennial Olympic Park in central Atlanta, apparently suffering massive head injuries from the crude pipe bomb.

A journalist for Turkish state television suffered a heart attack after the blast and medical authorities said he was considered a victim of the bomb.

Hawthorne's daughter Fallon underwent emergency surgery at Atlanta's Georgia Baptist Hospital. Doctors said she was expected to make a full recovery.

The blast devastated the southern Georgia city of Albany where Hawthorne lived in a

modest brick home in a black middle-class neighbourhood called Juniper Drive.

Albany is an industrial city of 64,000 residents, most of them work in peanut, cotton and tobacco farms on the flatlands of southern Georgia.

"I'm still in shock. I don't want to believe it," said her best friend, Alberta Wallace. "She was sweet. She was a sweet outgoing person. She'd help anybody."

Neighbours Sayu Hawthorne decided to visit Atlanta after hearing about the city's Olympic glamour from her sister, Diane, who works as an Games volunteer.

They sadly recalled the sight of mother and daughter loading up the family car on Friday evening, saying the two had hoped to buy tickets to one of the Olympic events once they got to Atlanta.

The last time neighbours saw her was when she stopped by to collect money for the funeral of a local clergyman.

Neighbours said Hawthorne celebrated her birthday last week, while her daughter had turned 14 on Wednesday.

ing. I never thought in a million years it hit anybody from here. It makes you wonder about life and death.

The Hawthorne family owns Fallon's hotdog and ice cream parlour in Albany.

Hawthorne, who served in the US army during the Vietnam War, worked as campaign manager for Winfred Dukes, a democratic candidate for state representative. She also been as a receptionist at a local company.

The Hawthorne residence on Juniper Drive stood empty on Saturday afternoon. Hawthorne's husband John had been called to Atlanta by police.

"This world's in a mess," said the woman's aged next-door neighbour, Minnie Williams. "Didn't no bomb kill her. God took her. It was just her time."

Army soccer<