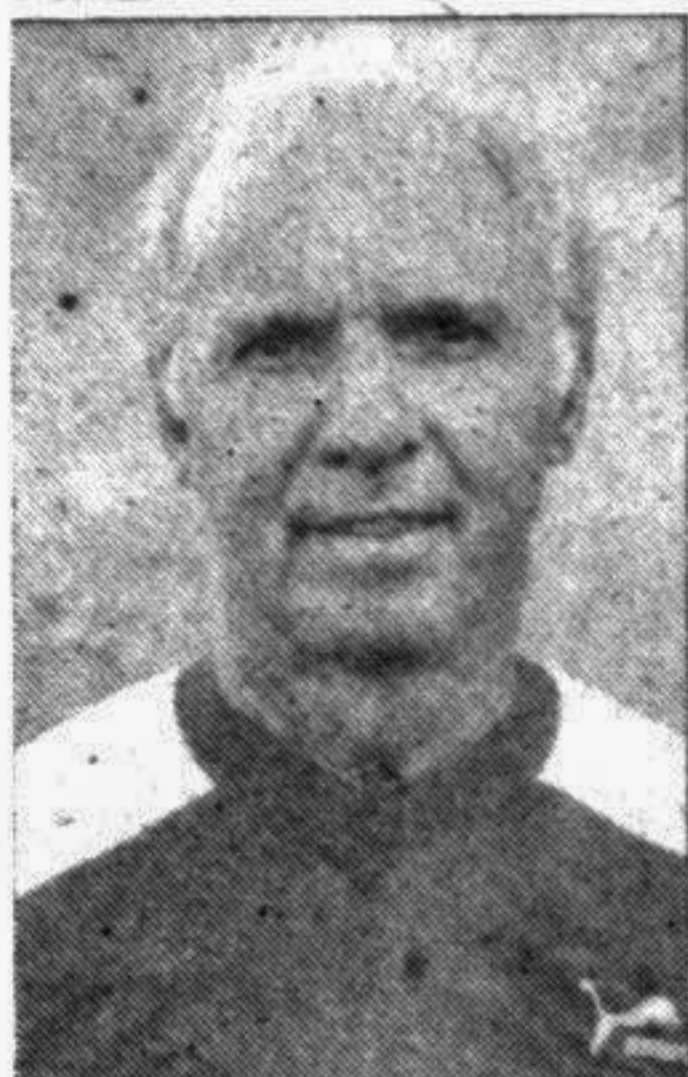


Olympic Update

Because you play to win...



Column One SPORTS TALK



Mario Zagallo
(Brazilian football coach)
This is an unbelievable defeat for us. The game was in our hands but we ended up losing. It was a magnificent win for Nigeria and I congratulate them.

Reacting after his team's stunning defeat to Nigeria in the Olympic football semifinal.

Sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-49
Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. August 9, 1996)

- Double Olympic gold medalist Marie-Jose Perec is

French	American	Japanese
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- The electronic timing devices were first introduced in

Table	Swimming	Basketball
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- Which country leads the opening ceremony march past in every Olympic Games?

Greece	Albania	Hong Kong
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- The number of golds US swimmer Mark Spitz won in the 1972 Olympics were:

Eight	Five	Seven
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- Cricket was a gold medal sport in 1900 Olympics. Who won the gold?

Great Britain	Australia	West Indies
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Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No: _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (if any) _____

WHIZZ KID-48 correct answers

- Which country won the first gold in Atlanta Olympics?
Ans: Poland
- In weightlifting, who is called as "Pocket Hercules"?
Ans: Suleymanoglu
- The first ever Belgian to win Olympic gold in Swimming is
Ans: Burghgraeve
- The century Inzamam scored in the Lord's Test was his
Ans: Fifth
- When did Mohammad Ali win his light-heavyweight Olympic gold?
Ans: 1960

WHIZZ KID-48 winner
Sayed Ali
Dhanmondi Boys' High School
Dhaka

Mandela's words of praise

PRETORIA, Aug 2: President Nelson Mandela was Thursday fulsome in his praise for 800 metres silver medal winner Hezekiel Sepeng, who a day earlier became South Africa's first black Olympic games medalist, reports AFP.

In a letter faxed to Sepeng in the United States, Mandela said he was proud of the 22-year-old university student, who finished second in a national record time of 1 minute 42.74 behind Norwegian Vebjoern Rodal's Olympic record of 1:42.58.

"You are an example of conquest over years of deprivation and alienation," Mandela said. "Your silver medal is a source of pride for all the citizens of South Africa."

Mandela who said he watched the event on television, added that Sepeng should form the "nucleus of an even stronger Olympic team" in future Games.

Aussies' double delight



ATLANTA, Aug 2: The streak remains alive. More important, the Australian women's hockey team has won another Olympic gold medal.

Alyson Annan scored two goals Thursday night as the Aussies beat South Korea 3-1, extending their unbeaten streak in tournament competition to 40 matches dating back to last year, reports AP.

They now hold both the Olympic and World Cup titles and become the first country to win the Olympic title twice.

Eight years ago, the Aussies beat the South Koreans 2-0 in Seoul to win the Olympic title. This time, it was Australia who had the crowd on its side, even if they were playing a long way from home.

"In Seoul, we didn't really have a lot of pressure," said Australian forward Jackie Pereira, a member of both gold medal-winning teams who said she's going to retire. "Today, we really wanted gold because we thought we deserved it. We wouldn't have been satisfied with anything else."

Many in the crowd of about 15,000 at Morris Brown College were boisterous in support of Australia. Some acted as designated yell leaders, leading the fans in organized cheers and songs.

Six men, in particular, were big supporters, appearing shirtless with one large letter painted on the chest of each spelling out "A-U-S-S-I-E." Several others had the country's colors of green and gold painted on their faces, and many waved miniature Australian flags.

Annan scored her second goal in the 44th minute, converting a penalty stroke to break a 1-1 tie. She drilled the ball to the left of diving keeper You Jae-sook and into the South Korean net.

A goal by Katrina Powell 63rd minute clinched the victory.

"I was given the opportunity [to score] and took advantage

of it," Annan said. "We had a lot of opportunities to score and didn't. To our credit, we persisted."

When asked if this felt as good as she thought it might, Annan smiled and replied: "Better."

The Aussies went ahead 1-0 in the 17th minute when Annan scored on the game's first penalty corner. The South Koreans tied it in the 30th minute on a goal by Cho Eun-jung on the second penalty corner.

The Netherlands earned the bronze medal earlier in the

day over Britain, 4-3 on penalty strokes after 0-0 draw.

Dutch goalkeeper Jacqueline Toxopeus dove to her right to block a shot by Kathryn Johnson from the penalty spot on the final attempt.

Suzan van der Wielen scored the winner for the Netherlands, the 1984 Olympic champs. Earlier, Myrte Donners, Carole Thate and Jeannette Lewin converted for the Dutch and Christine Cook, Sue Fraser and Pauline Robertson scored for Britain, which won the bronze medal in 1992.



China's Liu Guoliang goes for a return during the men's Olympic table tennis singles final on Thursday. Liu won the match. — AFP/UNB photo

Liu lifts TT singles title

ATLANTA, Aug 2: Liu Guoliang completed an Olympic table tennis sweep for China on Thursday, beating countryman Wang Tao for the men's singles gold 21-12, 22-24, 21-19, 15-21, 21-5, reports AP.

It was the final event in table tennis and China won all four gold medals and took three silver. At the World Championships last year, it took all seven events including men's and women's team titles and mixed doubles.

With both players going for winners on nearly every shot, there were short rallies. In the deciding game Liu raced to a 12-1 lead, pouncing on the ball quickly for winners or forcing Wang errors.

Wang seemed to stall, apparently content with merely returning the ball. He was able to counter attack for a few points, but let Liu claim the gold medal without much effort.

Liu, singles silver medalist at last year's world championships, is just 21 and this was his first major individual title, which came at the expense of his friend.

Wang, 28, has earned fame as a doubles specialist, winning the world mixed doubles title three times and the men's doubles twice. He won the gold medal in men's doubles in 1992 in Barcelona and the silver medal in earlier this week. In the bronze medal match, Joerg Roskopf of Germany defeated Petr Korbel of the Czech Republic 21-17, 19-21, 21-18, 21-19.

Roskopf was the only non-Asian medalist in table tennis.

The defending gold medalist, Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden, was eliminated before the quarterfinals.

'Dream Team' in final

ATLANTA, Aug 2: Charles Barkley took over the game Thursday night and put the United States one win away from the gold medal in the 100th Olympic victory for an American men's basketball team, 101-73 over Australia, reports AP.

The Dream Team had a relatively easy time despite it worst shooting performance of the Olympics. In Saturday night's final, it taces Yugoslavia, a 66-58 semifinal winner over Lithuania. The Americans enter the gold-medal game with an overall Olympic record of 100-2.

Barkley was the difference, shooting 7-for-7 from the field and giving the US team the infusion of energy it needed to keep the Australians comfortably behind.

Barkley, who was involved in an altercation with one of the Australian players in an exhibition game July 12, also grabbed 11 rebounds and scored nine of his points in a row midway through the second half.

The crowd gave him a standing ovation when he left with 5 1/2 minutes left. Take away Barkley's perfect night from the field and the Dream Team's shooting percentage would have been even worse. As it was, the 47 per cent shooting was well below its previous low of 54 per cent against Croatia.

The final 28-point deficit made it seem like another blowout, but the Americans led by just 13 with a little more than 10 minutes remaining.

In the other semifinal, Yugoslavia scored the last eight points of the game, six by Predrag Danilovic, to edge Lithuania in an emotional rematch of the 1995 European Championships.

The game was close all the way until Yugoslavia scored the last eight points of the game, six of them by Danilovic.

Yugoslavia beat Lithuania by six points in the European Championships. They were not allowed to compete in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics because of the war in Bosnia.

"This was the gold medal for the rest of the world," said Yugoslav centre Vlade Divac.

"The 'Dream Team' are the absolute favourites, 99.9 per cent favourites but we won't give up before the final buzzer," Divac said.

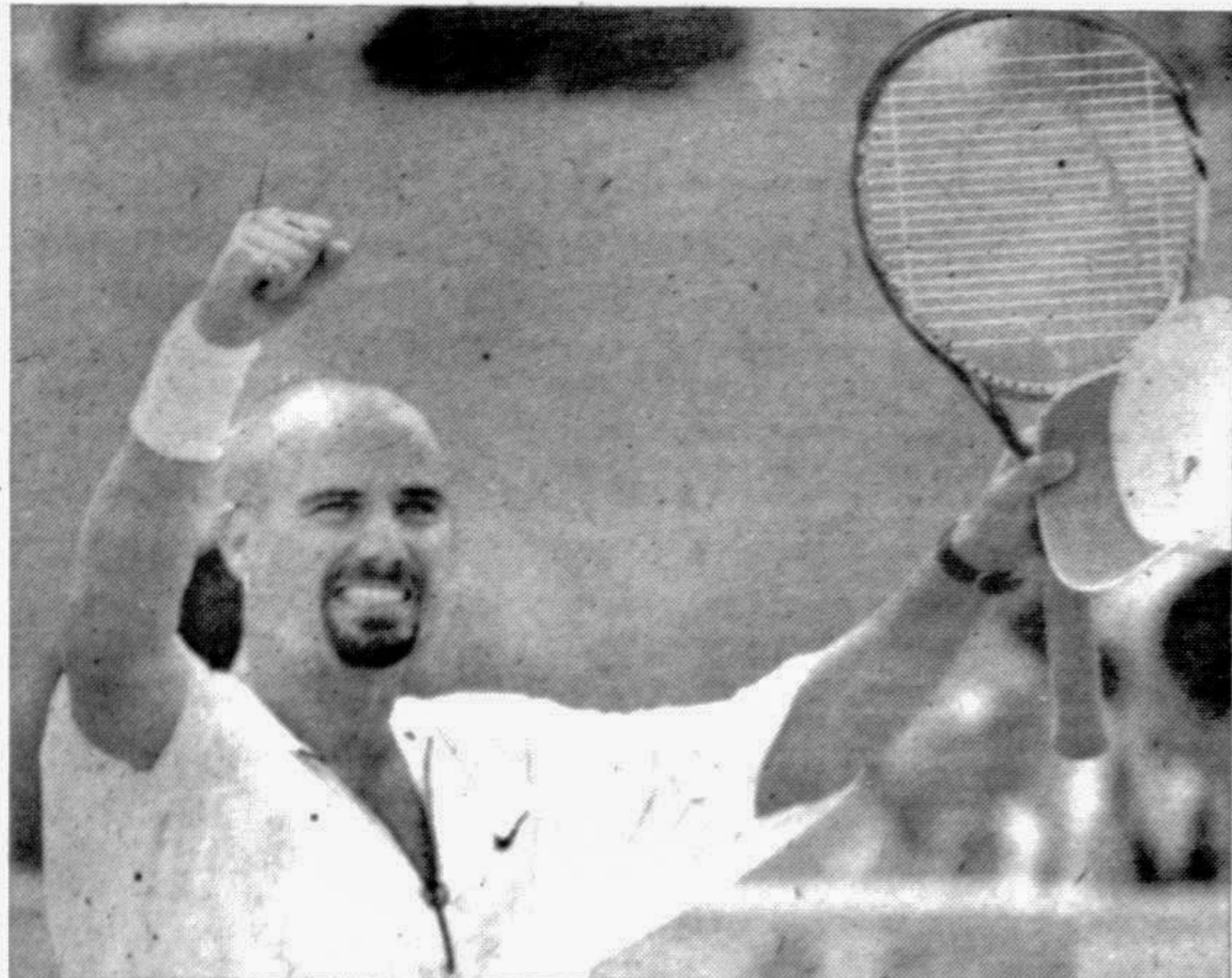
Boulmerka bites the dust

ATLANTA, Aug 2: Hasiba Boulmerka of Algeria, the 1992 gold medalist and defending world champion, was literally knocked from the semifinals of the women's 1,500 metres at the Olympic Games on Thursday night, reports AP.

At the start of the third lap, running in the middle of the pack, Boulmerka got her feet tangled with those of Gabriela Szabo of Romania.

Trying to keep from falling, she ripped Szabo's number off, then was shoved out of the way by Malgorzata Rutz of Poland.

Boulmerka, anguish on her face, came to a near stop, then resumed running but finished a distant last. Szabo and Rydz went on to qualify for Saturday night's finals. Theresia Kiesl of Austria won the heat in a relatively slow 4 minutes, 9.44 seconds.



American Andre Agassi exults after beating India's Leander Paes in the semifinal of the Olympic tennis tournament on August 1. — AFP/UNB photo

Agassi advances to final



ATLANTA, Aug 2: Andre Agassi moved ever closer to an Olympic gold medal on Thursday and insisted this week-end's final against Spain's Sergi Bruguera would rank alongside the biggest moments of his life, reports Reuter.

The Las Vegas saw off the unconventional challenge of India's Leander Paes 7-6, 6-3 in the semifinals and is ignoring all other distractions to ensure he adds his name to the lengthening list of US champions at the Atlanta Games.

"This is a huge match on Saturday. It's as big a match as playing any Grand Slam final," said Agassi, forced to save two set points at 6-5 in the first set before subduing the 127th ranked Paes.

"It would be unbelievable to win a gold medal. I couldn't put into words what it would mean to do it for the United States... seeing the number of medals go up and knowing you were a part of it."

You strive to get closer to what you hope to be the ultimate prize and Saturday is what it boils down to."

Only the French Open amongst the four 'majors' has so far eluded the 26-year-old, but even an Olympic silver medal will find a prominent place in the Agassi trophy

room. "If the silver medal is a disappointment, you're an asshole," he said succinctly. "That's ridiculous. To have a medal, period, is something every athlete come here for."

When all is said and done, you accept a beautiful reward, regardless if it's gold or silver. Certainly the gold is a greater accomplishment, but a silver is a wonderful thing."

No-one needed to explain the importance of the Olympics to either player before the start of their semifinal. Agassi's father and both Paes' parents are ex-

Olympians, lending an extra emotional edge to proceedings on a humid afternoon.

Paes' penchant for drop-shots caused Agassi early problems, but the Indian proved unable to curb his risk-taking instincts on the all-important break points which might have reshaped the contest.

Agassi, who has steadfastly stayed away from the party zone in downtown Atlanta, has enjoyed a good record on hard courts against Bruguera whose best moments have all come on European clay.

The Spaniard, though, has already accounted for fourth-seeded American Maliva Washington and fought his way capably out of danger against

Seeds tumble

AMSTERDAM, Aug 2: Number one seed Marcelo Rios of Chile and Spaniard Alberto Costa, seeded second, were among five seeds knocked out in the second round of the 475,000 dollars Dutch Open men's clay court tournament on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Rios, last year's surprise winner, failed to win a single game in the first set against Romanian Adrian Panu, and lost the second set 7-5.

Alberto Costa won one tie-break and lost another against Moroccan Youness El Aynaoui before going down 7-5 in the final set.

Fourth seed Spaniard Alberto Berasategui, his compatriot Carlos Costa seeded eighth, and seventh seeded Czech Bohdan Ulihrach also failed to progress.

Fu's coronation complete



ATLANTA, Aug 2: Fu Mingxia, world highboard diving champion as a tiny 12-year-old, extended her empire to the springboard to achieve an elusive Olympic golden double at the Atlanta Games, reports Reuter.

Dedicated to sport since childhood and still two weeks short of her 18th birthday, China's Fu has crammed a wealth of achievement into her young life with two world crowns and three Olympic titles already in her possession.

Consistency derived from that dedication, allied with coolness under pressure when all around her buckled, enabled Fu to score an unexpectedly comprehensive triumph in Wednesday's three-metre springboard final.

Despite bouts of fever and an eye problem after her arrival in Atlanta, anything less than victory in Saturday's highboard final would have been, in contrast to the springboard, a major upset. Fu, world champion on the 10-metre board in 1991 and 1994, duly repeated her 1992 Olympic triumph with ease.

She is the first woman since American Pat McCormack in 1956 to retain her Olympic highboard diving title and the first since East German Ingrid Kraemer in 1960 to sweep both women's diving goals.

Introduced to gymnastics at the age of three, Fu started diving at seven and was later sent from home in Wuhan in Hubei province to a sports school where daily hours of training honed her skills and turned her into a world-beating prodigy.

has grown into a chunkier competitor at 1.58 metres in height and 57 kilograms in weight.

"In 1992 I was a little girl. I grew a lot in four years — taller and heavier — but I can work on other strategies and technical aspects to keep up, so I feel it doesn't have much impact on my performance," she said.

"After Barcelona my coach wanted me to do three-metre and platform here. I won the gold medals and I feel very relieved because I reached the



FU MINGXIA

goals set by my coach and me." Fu has made huge progress on the springboard from finishing 25th at the 1994 World Championships to winning the World Cup in 1995 and now the Olympic title, having beaten her nearest rival in Atlanta by a vast margin of more than 35 points.

"I think my performance was pretty consistent. It was not my best but I did not make major mistakes. My competitors did make mistakes so I won the gold medal," she said.

"In the past five years I have some failures and some successes, some ups and downs. I've gained a lot in experience."

In Atlanta, Fu shouldered China's enormous expectations alone after 14-year-old Guo Jingting faltered in the high-board final and world cham-

pion Tan Shuping was surprisingly eliminated in the preliminary round of the three-metre event.

But she did not let that affect her. "I do not concentrate on her performances, I concentrate on mine," she said after Guo dropped out of the reckoning.

Fu believes the key to her success in Atlanta lay in her technical skills. "I performed consistently," she said. "I was also well prepared psychologically. I was not very uptight or intense. I did not say, I have to win the gold. I just concentrated on each dive."

Women's v'ball China, Cuba in final

ATLANTA, Aug 2: China moved within one victory of claiming their second Olympic women's volleyball gold medal by beating Russia in the semifinals Thursday night, reports AP.

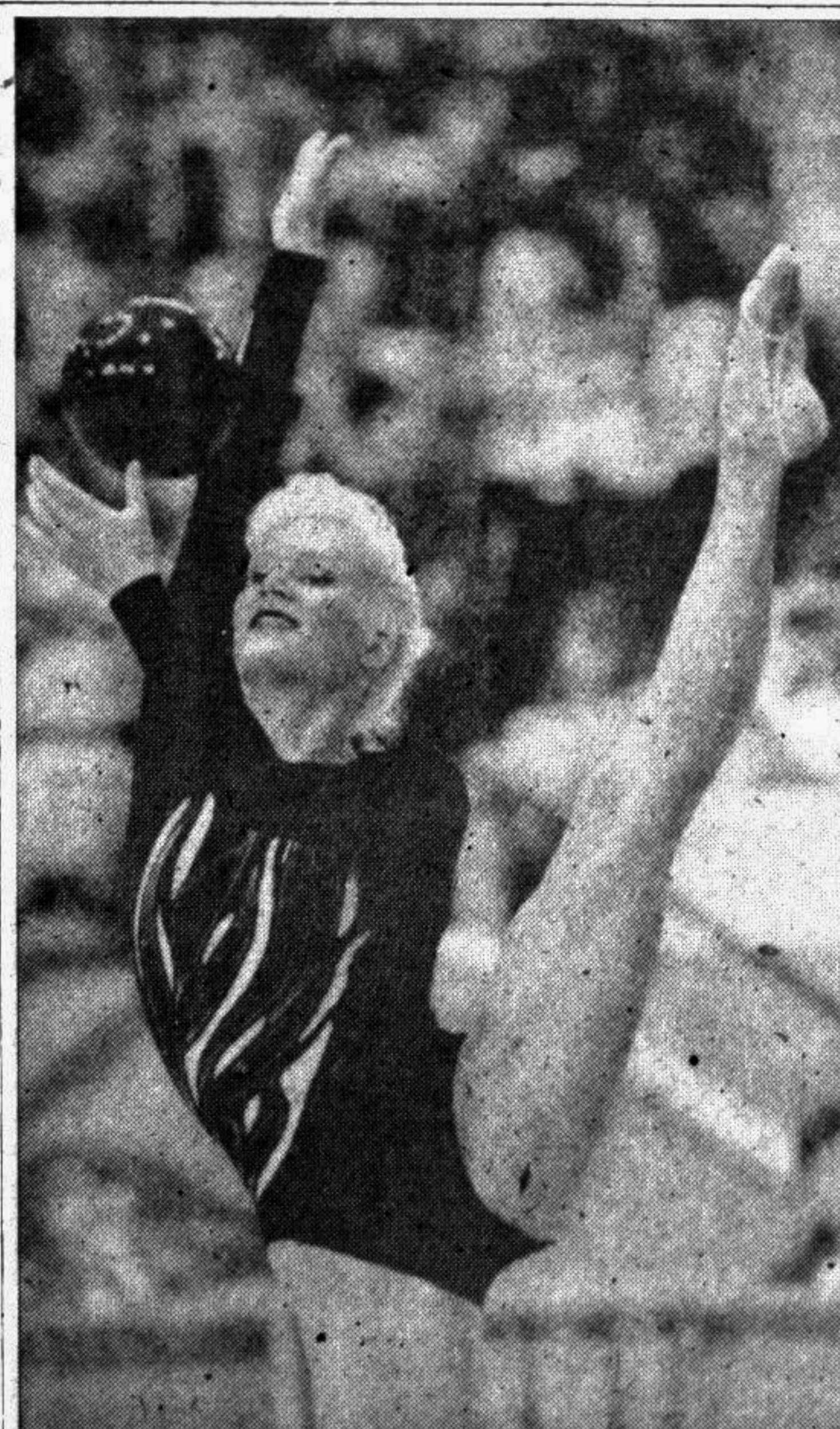
The 12-15, 15-5, 15-8, 15-12 victory carried China into the championship match Saturday against defending champions Cuba, who defeated Brazil last Thursday in five set thriller, 5-15, 15-8, 10-15, 15-13, 15-12.

China's victory ended Russia's remarkable run of never finishing worse than second in the Olympics. They won four gold and two silver medals as the Soviet Union from 1964 to 1988, missing only the 1984 Los Angeles Games due to their boycott.

Women's b'ball

ATLANTA, Aug 2: Yamilet Martinez scored 23 points and Milayda Enriquez grabbed 17 rebounds Thursday to lead Cuba to a 78-70 victory over Italy in the consolation semifinals of the Olympic women's basketball tournament, reports AP.

Cuba 3-4, will play Russia for fifth place on Saturday. Russia beat Japan 80-69 in the other consolation semifinal.



Finland's Katri Kalpala performs her routine during the women's rhythmic gymnastics competition in Atlanta on August 1. — AFP/UNB photo

US women strike gold



ATHENS, Georgia, Aug 2: Before a record crowd in the first Olympic soccer final, the US women made it to the big-time Thursday night, reports AP.

More than 76,000 people packed Sanford Stadium as the Americans beat China 2-1 in the first women's soccer tournament in the history of the games. Nearly all the fans came to see the US team move to the top of a sport seeking to make its mark in this country.

"Just listen to the fans," said jubilant striker Mia Hamm, the star of the American squad. "That's what it means. They're excited about the game. It's electrifying to play in front of everyone out here and everyone enjoying themselves. That's what it's all about."

The bronze medal went to Norway, who downed Brazil 2-0 in a game played earlier Thursday in the same stadium.

The US victory ended a year-long journey for the American women, who lost their World Cup title to Norway in 1995. They pointed toward the Olympics for their vindication, and got it by beating Norway in the semifinals, then downing the Chinese in their second meeting of the tournament.

Goals by Shannon MacMillan in the 19th minute and Tiffany Milbrett in the 62nd clinched a victory that appeared to be slipping away during the middle of the game, especially after Sun Wen scored for China in the 32nd.

But the Americans sent the fans wild by recapturing their early fire and style. In the end, it was captain Carla Overbeck and her players who collected the gold medals after dancing around the field carrying three US flags.

To reflect the enormity of the achievement, the medals were presented by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, who had FIFA president Joao Havelange and several of the world's major soccer officials standing alongside.

Although the well-organised Chinese — who tied 0-0 with

Edberg wins

LOS ANGELES, Aug 2: Sixth seed Stefan Edberg was the only seed to win Thursday at the Infillini Open by beating Jonathan Stark of the United States 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) to reach the quarter-finals, reports Reuter.

Australian Sandon Stolle topped fifth seeded Dutchman Jan Siemerink 6-3, 6-7 (1-7), 6-2.