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Leroy's bane Lewis' boon

ATLANTA, Aug 2: Leroy Burrell opened the door for his Santa Monica track club teammate Carl Lewis to win a record 10th Olympic gold medal on Thursday when he withdrew from the US 4x100 metres relay squad through injury, reports Reuter.

A statement from Lawrence Magee, physician to the US athletics team, said Burrell was suffering from acute Achilles tendinitis.

"He will not compete based on medical recommendations," Magee said.

Head US track coach Erv Hung said American officials would be examining other options.

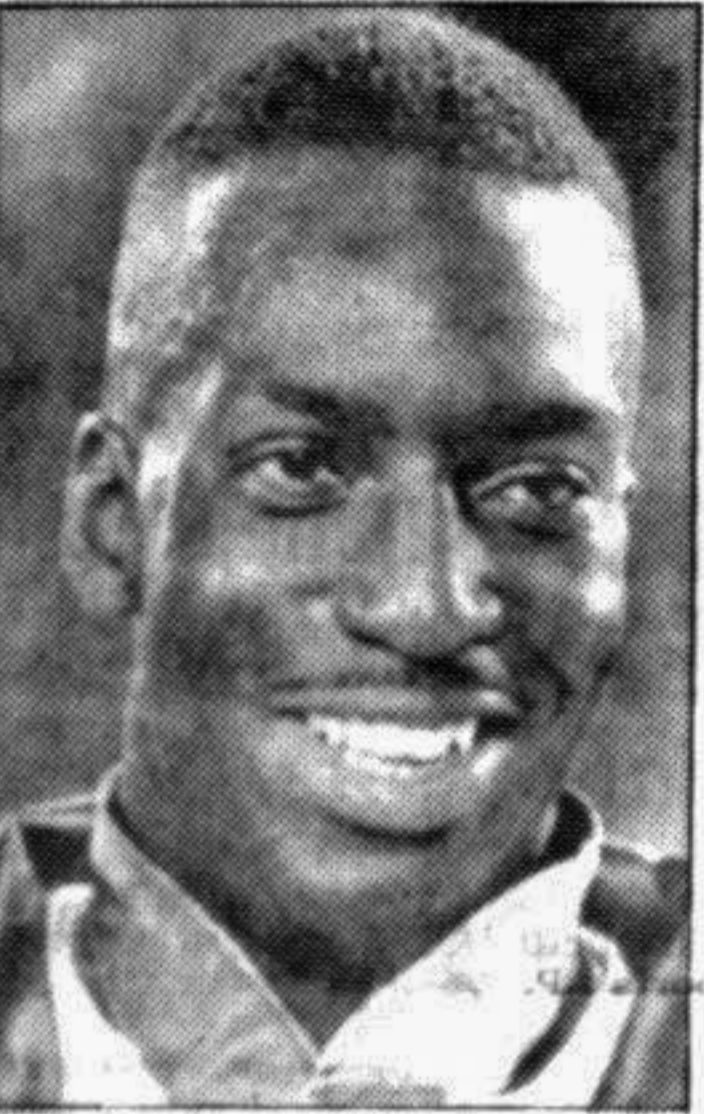
"We will do what's best for the team and the country," Hunt said.

Burrell was named along with Jon Drummond, Tim Montgomery, Tim Harden, Jeff Williams and Dennis Mitchell for Friday's first two rounds of the relay.

Defending Olympic 200 metres champion Mike Marsh, also from the Santa Monica Club, is scheduled to run the third leg in Saturday's final.

Lewis can either be added to the squad as a replacement for Burrell or named by noon on Friday as one of the six runners from which the final quartet for Saturday's final will be selected.

Johnson at a glance



ATLANTA, Aug 2 (Reuter): Brief profile of Michael Johnson of the United States, Olympic gold medal winner in the men's 200 metres on Thursday.

Age 28
Personal best: 19.32 second (world record 1996).

Previous Record: Olympic gold 400 metres Atlanta 1996, gold 4x400 metres relay Barcelona 1992, gold medals World Championships 200 metres 1991, 400 metres and 400 metres relay 1993; 200, 400 and 4x400 metres relay 1995. Unbeaten in 400 metres finals since 1989. Set world 200 metres record of 19.66 in June.

Texas who was born and bred in Dallas. Marketing degree from Baylor University. First man to win gold in both 200 and 400 metres at Olympics and at World Championships. Eliminated in semi-finals of 200 metres at Barcelona Olympics when suffering from food poisoning. Golden shoes in Atlanta have become his trademark.

Nagar Khanpur Reds top Nuruddin soccer

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, August 2: Nagar Khanpur Shapla Krira Sangsad red team clinched the third Nuruddin Mia Smriti football trophy after beating the green team of the club at the local Gymkhana ground here today.

The match was tied 3-3 during the stipulated time. In the penalty shoot-out, the red side converted four out of five while their rivals could score only twice.

With eight goals, Reaz of the champions emerged as the highest scorer of the 12-team meet while Shipon from the green team was adjudged footballer of the tourney.

Shadab turns up heat

EDINBURGH, Aug 2: Pakistan's 18-year-old emerging batting talent Shadab Kabir stroked 135 in 139 balls to set up a 108-run win over Scotland in a one-day match on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Kabir, fresh from his Test debut in the opening match of the series against England at Lord's last week, spurred Pakistan to 286 for five in their 50 overs.

The Scots never came to terms with the required run rate, lost wickets at regular intervals, and were all out for 178 in 45.3 overs.

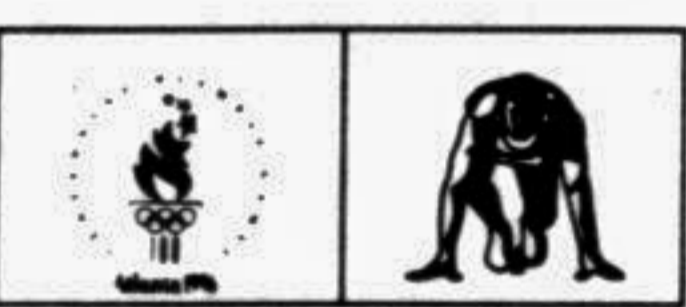
Opening the innings, Kabir completed his half-century in the 26th over before stepping up the pace.

He passed three figures in the 41st over of 119 balls, and when he was caught by Bruce Paterson off Kevin Thomson at deep mid-wicket he had hit 20 fours.



RACING TO GLORY: France's golden girl Marie-Jose Perce hurtles into history by winning the 200m gold ahead of perennial Jamaican also-ran, Merlene Ottey at the Atlanta track on August 1. Perce became only the second female in history to clinch the 200m and 400m golds at the same Games.

Marie-Jose a la Johnson



ATLANTA, Aug 2: The only person to beat Michael Johnson at these Olympics is Marie-Jose Perce of France.

Fifteen minutes before Johnson pulled off his historic double Thursday night, winning the 400 and 200 metres at the same Games, the Frenchwoman nicknamed "The Gazelle" already had accomplished the feat, reports agencies.

With a great finishing kick, the long-legged Perce won the women's 200 with a time of 22.13 seconds, beating out Jamaica's perennial also-ran, Merlene Ottey, who picked up her second silver of the Games.

Perce was only the second woman to win the 200 and 400 at the same Olympics, but her accomplishment was more impressive because the world's top runners were all in Atlanta. When Valerie Brisco-Hooks of the United States accomplished the double at Los Angeles in 1984, two of her chief rivals did not participate because of the Soviet-led boycott. Physically heaving with

emotion and looking shell-shocked with the enormity of her achievement, she clearly found it hard to express her feelings.

Laughing with almost embarrassed modesty she said, "At the moment I am in the clouds. All this is incredible. It is very hard to explain, I am very moved."

Composing herself, she explained, "I knew I was strong at the end and wasn't frightened to Merlene's finish and it all worked out as planned. I waited for the right moment and didn't get worried."

Ottey led by a couple of feet coming off the turn while Perce bunched together with four other runners. But Perce, her beautiful strides never waning while the others began to struggle, overtook Ottey in the final 20 metres and won by at least five feet.

Ottey was second in 22.24 seconds, while Mary Onyiah of Nigeria took the bronze in 22.38.

On Monday night, Perce won her second straight Olympic gold in the 400, setting an Olympic record of 48.25 — the world's fastest time in 10 years.

Perce, 28, has been dominating on the women's side as Johnson has been among the men — especially in the 400.

She took gold at the 1991 and 1995 World Championships in addition to the 1992 Olympic title.

In 1993, Perce skipped the 400 at a major meet in order to run the 200. She finished fourth and decided to start focusing on both events.

Now, she's already pondering the possibility of adding another event to her repertoire before the 2000 Sydney Games.

"Maybe one day I will race at 800 meters," she said. "Maybe in four years, when I'm older people will see me at that distance, because I'm sure I have not used all of my potential," he said.

Perce admitted earlier this week she did not at first realise the extent of her talent. But she told reporters this week, "I am exceptional, I really am."

After her victories on the track in Atlanta, not too many people would disagree with her-even though in Los Angeles where she is coached by Smith she attracts little attention.

"At home in France I am as famous as Michael Jordan. In LA I can walk down the street and no-one recognises me," she said. "Maybe that will change now."

Joyner-Kersey back on her feet

ATLANTA, Aug 2: American Jackie Joyner-Kersey gritted her teeth and went back in Olympic action here on Thursday, just six days after being forced out of the heptathlon with injury, reports AFP.

The three-times Olympic gold medalist lined up for the start of the long jump qualifiers.

She had wrenched a hamstring in the first heptathlon event, the 100m hurdles, last Saturday and immediately pulled out.

The 34-year-old won the heptathlon gold in 1988 and 1992. She also won the long jump title eight years ago.

O'Brien's moment of joy

ATLANTA, Aug 2: Dan O'Brien's biggest day began in a downpour and ended, 13 1/2 hours later, in exhausted elation and tears.

The Olympic gold medal in the decathlon that everyone thought O'Brien would win four years ago finally was his Thursday night, reports AP.

O'Brien finished with 8,824 points, the sixth-highest score of all time. Germany's Frank Busemann, who had four personal bests and tied two others, took the silver at 8,706.

Tomas Dvorak of the Czech Republic edged American Steve Fritz for the bronze with 8,664 points.

When O'Brien crossed the finish line at the end of the last event, the 1,500 metres, he dropped to his knees and began to sob.

Then there were hugs all around — from competitors, from his adoptive father Jim O'Brien and from teammate Michael Johnson, who had just been awarded a gold for his phenomenal world record performance in the 200 metres.

Most of the doubt about who would win ended in the ninth event, after darkness fell, when O'Brien lined up for his final throw of the javelin. As soon as he let it loose, he knew it was a long one.

O'Brien had hardly shown any emotion throughout the day, but now he jumped up and threw his fists in the air. The throw was 219 feet, 6 inches (66 meters), the only all-time personal best he managed in the two days of competition.

O'Brien had a 209-point lead over Busemann entering the 10th event, the 1,500 metres, always his worst. But he only had to come within 40.5 seconds of Busemann to clinch the gold.

His faced contorted, he faded midway through the race, but mounted a final kick to end to pull close enough.

"I heard the crowd chanting USA, USA," O'Brien said. "It's what I'd thought about when I was jogging back home."

A nightmare in New Orleans four years ago haunted O'Brien until Thursday night. He already was the world champion, but O'Brien failed to make the U.S. team by crashing out of the pole vault competition.

O'Brien went on to set the world record just a few weeks after the Olympics, then won two more World Championships. But everything wasn't set right until Thursday night.

When the day began in a driving rain, Busemann broke his own world best in the 110-metre hurdles, winning in 13.47 seconds. O'Brien was timed in 13.87, but the German had cut O'Brien's lead to 71 points.

Adkins' finest hour

ATLANTA, Aug 2: American Derrick Adkins won an Olympic gold medal in his hometown on Thursday, leading throughout the men's 400 metres hurdles, reports Reuter.

Adkins, world champion last year, went out fast and looked to be heading for a comfortable victory until a faltering stride over the final hurdle allowed arch rival Samuel Matete of Zambia to come back at him.

But the Atlanta dug deep into his reserves to surge towards the line, equalling his best time of 47.54 seconds and leaving Matete with the silver medal in 47.78.

Matete also took the silver behind Adkins at the World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, last year.

American Calvin Davis just edged out Swedish veteran Sven Nylander on the line for the bronze medal, clocking 47.96 to 47.98 for the Swede. Nylander a top class hurdler for 15 years, set a personal best but missed out narrowly on a medal as he did in the 1984 Olympic final in Los Angeles when he also came fourth.

Poland picks 50-km walk gold

ATLANTA, Aug 2: Robert Korzeniowski of Poland won the men's 50-km walk gold medal at the Olympics today, Mikhail Shechenikov of Russia took the silver medal and Valentin Massana of Spain the bronze, reports Reuter.

Cubans in command

ATLANTA, Aug 2: Cuba advanced four boxers into gold medal matches on Thursday, while the United States lost its three semifinal bouts, report agencies.

Reigning champion Felix Savon of Cuba walked through to the Olympic heavyweight final without throwing a punch after his German semifinal opponent Luan Krasnjqi failed to show up.

Krasnjqi had an injured hand and a cut under his eye and did not turn out for the weigh-in earlier. He still wins a bronze medal as a losing semifinalist.

Savon, five times a world champion and unbeaten for 10 years in international competition, now meets Canada's David Defagbon for the gold medal on Saturday.



Derrick Adkins (R) of the United States celebrates his gold in the 400m hurdles along with compatriot Calvin Davis (L) and Zambian Samuel Matete at the Olympic Stadium in Atlanta on August 1.

Bubka in twilight zone?

KIEV, Aug 2: Mystery over world pole vault champion Sergei Bubka swiftly dissolved on Thursday when the Ukrainian turned up at a news conference in Atlanta expressing worries about his sporting future, reports Reuter.

Mikhail Tyutyunyk, commercial director of Bubka's sports club in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, had suggested Bubka's whereabouts were not known and that he had left Atlanta to get over the disappointment of Wednesday when he had to quit his event with an Achilles tendon injury.

Bubka, holder of 35 world records over 13 years, had been warming up for the final with the bar set at 5.70 metres, but picked up his belongings and walked out of the arena.

He told reporters on Thursday the injury might finish his sports career.

"It's tough to recover if your Achilles is broken," Bubka, 32, said. "I will have some checks. Now the only solution is rest."

Bubka said he had been given a series of injections to combat the pain and had hoped he would feel ready to compete on Wednesday after the warm up.

PEPSI OLYMPIC UPDATE

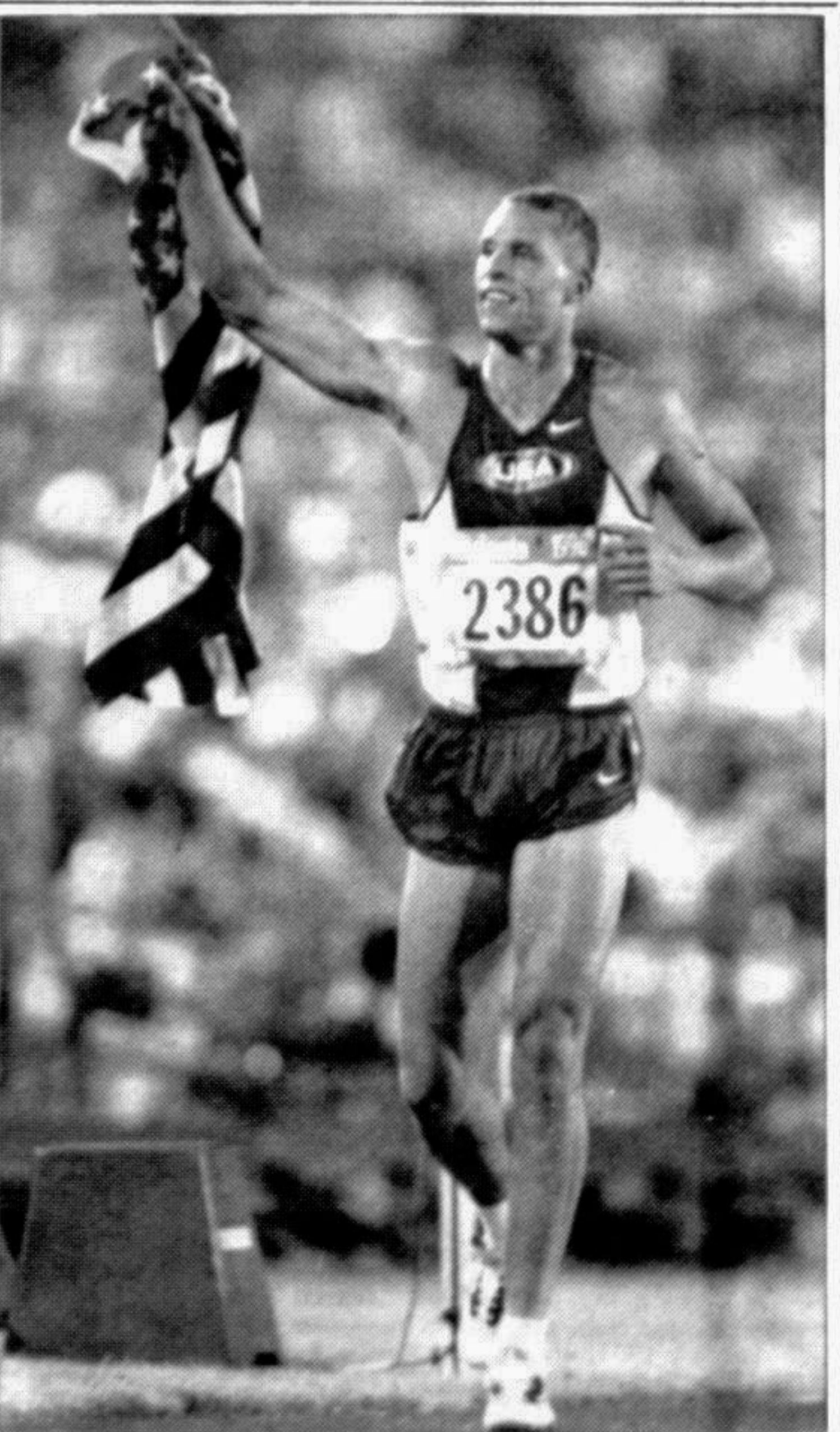
MEDALS TABLE

ATLANTA, Aug 2: Medals table at the end of the 13th day of competition at the Atlanta Olympics on Thursday (tabulated under gold, silver, bronze):

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	32	51	16	79
Russia	21	16	11	46
China	15	19	11	34
France	14	6	14	34
Germany	12	13	21	46
Italy	11	6	9	26
Australia	8	9	18	35
Ukraine	7	2	8	17
South Korea	6	9	5	20
Poland	6	5	3	14
Romania	4	5	6	15
Hungary	4	3	6	13
Greece	4	3	0	7
Switzerland	4	1	0	5
Cuba	3	5	8	16
Japan	3	3	3	11
Brazil	3	2	6	11
New Zealand	3	2	1	6
Spain	3	1	2	6
Denmark	3	1	1	5
Ireland	3	0	1	4
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Canada	2	8	7	17
Netherlands	2	4	9	15
Kazakhstan	2	3	1	6
Belgium	2	2	2	6
North Korea	2	1	2	5
South Africa	2	1	0	4
Ethiopia	2	0	0	2
Belarus	1	5	8	14
Britain	1	5	6	12
Sweden	1	3	1	5
Jamaica	1	3	0	4
Czech Republic	1	2	3	6
Finland	1	2	0	3
Norway	1	1	2	4
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Armenia	1	1	0	2
Slovakia	1	0	1	2
Yugoslavia	1	0	1	2
Costa Rica	1	0	0	1
Ecuador	1	0	0	1
Hong Kong	1	0	0	1
Syria	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	0	4	4	8
Kenya	0	2	1	3
Namibia	0	2	0	2
Slovenia	0	2	0	2
Austria	0	1	1	2
Iran	0	1	1	2
Malaysia	0	1	1	2
Argentina	0	1	0	1
Croatia	0	1	0	1
Taiwan	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	1	0	1
Zambia	0	1	0	1
Nigeria	0	0	2	2
Trinidad-Tobago	0	0	2	2
Georgia	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Monogolia	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Mozambique	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Uganda	0	0	1	1



SERGEI BUBKA



Dan O'Brien of the United States acknowledges the cheer from the stands after winning the Olympic decathlon event on August 1.