

# Olympic Update

# Because you play to win...



## Croatia's finest hour

ATLANTA, Aug 5: They sang together with gusto and pride, fans and athletes celebrating their strife-torn country's first Olympic gold medal, reports AP.

Croatia beat Sweden 27-26 in men's team handball Sunday, a historic and emotional victory for a country that has endured so much turmoil and grief this decade.

"This is a crown for the greatest achievement of our country in sport," said forward Goran Perkovic, who along with Bozidar Jovic and Irfan Smaljagic combined for 18 goals.

"We achieved the highest goal an athlete can achieve," Smaljagic said. "This was a once-in-a-lifetime chance. It's not very likely there will be a next chance."

The Croatian fans who made it to Atlanta urged their team on with military songs while waving a sea of small banners, flags and red-and-white balloons. They were among the crowd of 32,439 who watched the finale in the Georgia Dome — the largest turnout in Olympic history for a handball game, officials said.

Spain won the bronze with a 27-25 victory over world champions France as Demetrio Lozano scored five second-half goals, his final one with 10 seconds left.

## Rakib, Bulbul BSJA's choice

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) announced the winners of the BSJA awards 1995 for players, trainers, organisers and sponsors, says a press release.

The members of BSJA voted Rakib Hossain, the national midfielder who joined Premier league champions Abahani this year from Mukti-jodha Sangsad, as the best booter and Aminul Islam Bulbul, skipper of Mohammedan Sporting Club cricket team, as the best cricketer.

The other awardees are: Haider Alam (hockey), Mahub Alam and Nilufar Yasmeen (athletics), Karar Mizanur



RAKIB BULBUL

Rahman (swimming), Saiful Alam Chowdhury (rinki) and Nasiruddin Johnny (shooting), Rifat bin Sattar (chess), Mosa-udequl Haque Rochi (table tennis), A Z M Altaf Hossain Akul (handball), Shaquazzaman Shaquiq (organiser), Mohamad Mala and M Yusuf Chowdhury (trainers) and Square Pharmaceuticals (sponsors).

Five former players have also been named for special awards. They are Abul Hossain (volleyball), Amalesh Sen (football), Dipu Roy Chowdhury (cricket), Saiful Haque Sadi (table tennis), and Abdul Maleque Chinnu (hockey).

## Two Russians reinstated

ATLANTA, Aug 5: An arbitration court Sunday reinstated two Russian athletes who were stripped of their Olympic medals after testing positive for a banned drug, reports AP.

In a surprise decision, the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled there was insufficient scientific evidence to disqualify swimmer Andrie Korneyev and Greco-Roman wrestler Zafar Guliyov.

The court said it gave the athletes the benefit of the doubt "because of uncertainty over whether the drug bromantan is a stimulant."

Korneyev and Guliyov were among five athletes from the former Soviet Union — four Russians and one Lithuanian — expelled for using bromantan. The other three are likely to be reinstated Monday, IOC officials said.

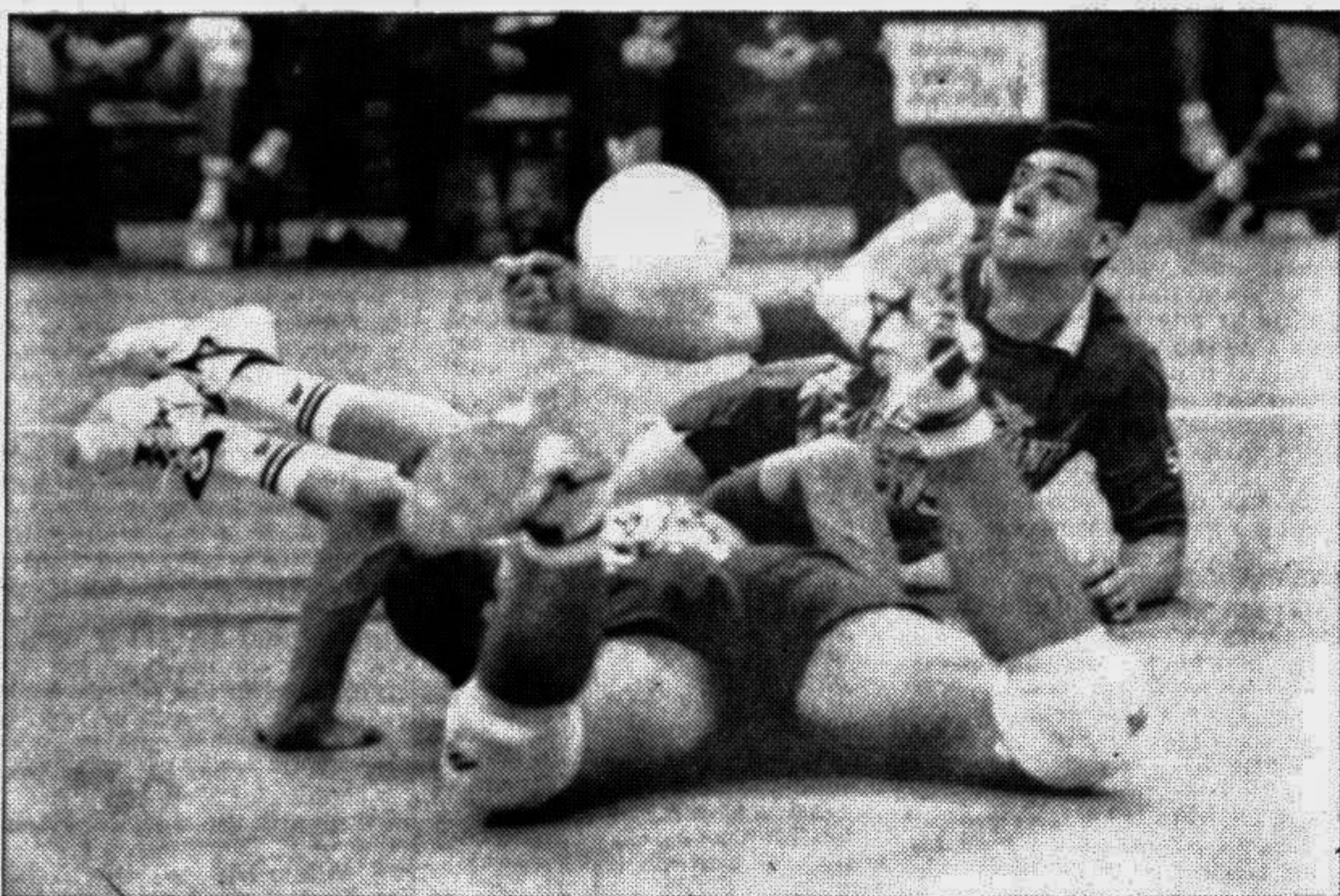
The International Olympic Committee said last Sunday that Korneyev and Guliyov tested positive for bromantan. Korneyev was stripped of his bronze medal in the 200-metre breaststroke and Guliyov lost his bronze in the light flyweight (105.5-pound) weight class.

After Sunday's ruling, IOC director general Francois Carrard confirmed the sanctions would be lifted and the medals restored.

"This is a decision by an independent court, and the IOC will, of course, comply with it," he said.

Russian Olympic Committee president Vitaly Smirnov expressed satisfaction with the ruling.

"It's very fair, I think," he said. "From the very beginning I told the IOC the athletes are not guilty. If there is a mistake and by chance this medicine can be considered a drug or stimulant, this is the fault of our scientists."



A Dutch duo appear desperate during their volleyball gold medal clash with Italy at the Omni Coliseum on August 4. Their efforts paid off as the Netherlands won the match 3-2. — AFP/UNB photo

## 'King' Carl steps down

ATLANTA, Aug 5 (AP): Carl Lewis won another gold medal, stirred up nearly a week of controversy, then disappeared. It seemed a fitting way for him to depart the Olympic stage.

Because, for all the fantastic achievements that made him perhaps the greatest Olympian, 'King' Carl forever seemed tinged by controversy and self-aggrandizement.

At the end, he was merely a spectator, watching from a VIP booth high atop Olympic Stadium while the 400-metre relay team, his baby, ran without him Saturday night — and lost.

No one will ever know if having Lewis in the relays would have altered the result and given him a record 10th gold medal. But it's a pity the question ever came up in the first place.

The lingering impression of Lewis should have been his winning leap in the long jump last Monday, the last of his record-tying nine golds covering four Olympiads. The sight of an aging warrior extracting a jump for the ages from his 35-year-old legs was the defining moment of Lewis' career.

Or was it? The next day, like a painter who crafts a masterpiece but doesn't know when to put down the brush, Lewis began lobbying for a spot on the 400 relay team. Never mind that he had finished last in the 100 at the US trials and didn't bother to show up for a pre-Olympic training camp.

When his erstwhile teammates complained about King Carl trying to horn his way onto the track one more time, he claimed he was merely speaking for the fans who wanted him on the relay squad.

Winning 10 gold medals would be tremendous, Lewis said. "But after the other night, you go through your career and realise there is a time when you hang up your spikes and call it a day... That night

(winning the long jump) was so special, I don't know if I can match it."

He never got the chance.

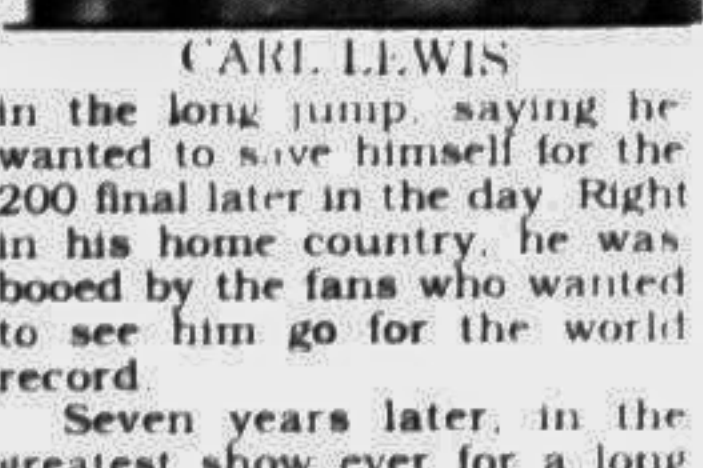
US coach Erv Hunt passed over Lewis for a spot on the relay team, even when his training mate and close friend Leroy Burrell was injured. When Burrell's replacement, Tim Harden, struggled to grasp the baton and made a sloppy handoff after the second leg, the Americans were beaten outright in the 400 for the first time in Olympic history.

Lewis watched from his private suite, then slipped out of the stadium without uttering a word to the media.

"He said, 'This has all become a big mess,' said Carl Lewis, his sister. "He got sucked into this whole big mess and he got tired of it."

Of course, Lewis was used to big messes. He created a furor at the '84 Olympics when he refused to take his final four attempts

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CARL LEWIS

in the long jump, saying he wanted to save himself for the 200 final later in the day. Right in his home country, he was booed by the fans who wanted to see him go for the world record.

Seven years later, in the greatest show ever for a long jumper, Lewis soared 8.84 metres (29 feet) or beyond three times at the world championships, only to be beaten by Mike Powell's world record of 8.95 (29.4.5).

Instead of praising Powell's performance, Lewis scoffed at it, proclaiming it a once-in-a-lifetime effort that paled in comparison to his own great day. Lewis was right when he said of Powell, "He may never do it again." But the public image of 'King' Carl took another blow.

On the track, though, the whims of public opinion couldn't diminish Lewis' greatness.

Not since the great Jesse Owens dominated track and field during the mid-1930s has there been an athlete with the spread and explosiveness of Carl Lewis. And no one performed so well, for so long.

Lewis' nine golds and one silver include four golds at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, matching Owens' feat of four golds at the '36 Berlin Games. Lewis also equalled discus thrower Al Oerter's record of winning the same event (the long jump) in four straight Olympics.

For more than a decade, on one beat Lewis in the long jump. No one ran more sub-10-second clockings in the 100. No one has run on more 400-metre relay teams that have broken 38 seconds. And no one has soared farther than 8.50 (or 28 feet) more often in the long jump.

In all, Lewis set or helped set 10 world records. "Carl is the greatest athlete I've ever seen," said 1992 Olympic coach Mel Rosen, "and he proves it time and time again."

Yet the man himself remained an enigma to the very end.

"None of you," Lewis once said, "will ever know who I really am."

Australian batsman Michael Bevan was Yorkshire's unlikely hero with the ball taking five for 29 as Sussex tumbled to 206 all out after an opening stand of 108 between Rajesh Rao (64) and Keith Greenfield (47).

Australia's former Test batsman Dean Jones hammered his fourth league century, and ninth in all competitions this season, to sweep Derbyshire over Gloucestershire with 19 balls to spare at Derby.

England and Essex batsman Naser Hussain proved his fitness after a fractured finger for this week's second Test against Pakistan with 77 off the Middlessex attack at Lord's but ended on the losing side.

Middlessex, having made 220 for six, won by five runs after off-spinner Paul Weekes took four for 29 to put his county in fourth place, four points off the pace.

Four world records fell in the pool while Alexander Popov and Kieran Perkins confirmed they were the outstanding freestyle exponents of their generation.

Weightlifting, preserve of the big men from the small countries working out obsessively in seat-stained gymnasiums, did not escape the Las Vegas touch.

Portentous music swelled to a climax between lifts and spectators were treated to video shots of the contestants preparing backstage.

In this super-charged atmosphere Turkish featherweight Naim Suleymanoglu became the first man to win three consecutive gold medals after an engrossing contest with Greek Valerios Leonides.

Gymnastics provided wonderful television ratings and a perfect heroine in Kerri Strug, who ignored the pain from a sprained ankle to clinch gold for the US women's team with a vault that left her crumpled in pain on the floor.

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## Mandela made it possible

ATLANTA, Aug 5: He did it for his country and teammates, to pay back those who prepared him from a moment of Olympic glory. But most of all, Josia Thugwane won the Olympic marathon Sunday for his hero, Nelson Mandela, reports AP.

"I am dedicating this medal to him because he made it possible, he made us free," the tiny runner said after winning the closest Olympic marathon in history to become the first black South African to win a gold medal.

That Thugwane, 25, even ran in the race seems a miracle. As an Ndebele from the town of Bethal in the eastern highlands, he grew up poor and disadvantaged like most black in the apartheid era.

Sports meant soccer or running, requiring nothing more than the open spaces and dirt roads of his settlement. Only whites could use the fancy tracks and stadiums in town, the law said.

Thugwane played "a lot of soccer" as a youngster, dreaming of someday getting paid more money than possible from the mental labour available to blacks. Then in 1988, at age 17, he decided to enter a local half marathon.

"I ran in that race and I won 50 rand (dinars 11.50)," he said through an interpreter to yet another interviewer a few hours after his victory Sunday. "That was it. I was a runner. Here was a way to make money."

## Samaranch for stricter commercialism

ATLANTA, Aug 5: International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch said on Sunday the commercialisation of the Olympics must be controlled, reports Reuter.

"We need commercialisation, but this commercialisation must be controlled. It must be directed by the organising committee or the IOC or the international Olympic movement," Samaranch told a news conference on the final day of the Atlanta Games, which others have criticised for being brash and tacky.

## Northants take the lead

LONDON, Aug 5: Kevin Curran fired Northamptonshire to the top of the Sunday League with a half-century in 52 balls against Leicestershire, reports Reuter.

Curran hammered an unbeaten 57, driving home the advantage gained by Northants' sharp out-cricketer as they won by six wickets to take over from Surrey as leaders in the 40 overs competition.

Leicestershire, but in to bat, were dismissed for 133 in 43.1 overs, with West Indies fast bowler Curtly Ambrose taking two for 13 and three run-outs in the middle order compounding the home team's problems.

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## Ali, the undying image

ATLANTA, Aug 5: Muhammad Ali's return to the Olympic Yold in Atlanta provided the Games with one of its most heart-stopping moments and one of its most joyful, reports Reuter.

Ali, now 54, is a trembling shadow of the boxing legend whose performances in the ring and political activities out of it made him the most famous sportsman of his age.

But "the greatest" retains the ability to inspire. And when he grins, as he did on Saturday night when receiving an Olympic gold medal, the years fall away and the world seems a better place.

Ali first came to public notice at the 1960 Olympic in Rome when he won the light-

heavyweight gold as Cassius Clay. He threw the medal into the Ohio river in disgust on the way home to Louisville, Kentucky, after being refused service in an all-white restaurant.

The incident changed Ali's life. He increasingly used his fame as a boxer — he is the only man to win the world heavyweight title three times — to become a symbol of black pride and a voice for the oppressed, enraging many whites.

He became a Muslim after winning the world crown first in 1964 and refused to fight in the Vietnam war. He was stripped of his title but this served only to raise his standing among blacks.

After his retirement, and when illness took its hold on Ali, there were occasional calls for the International Olympic Committee to give him a replacement gold.

Rumours that he would play some part in the Atlanta Games surfaced in the days leading up to the opening.

But it still came as a shock to three billion people watching the opening ceremony on television when they realised Ali was the figure shuffling forward to receive the Olympic torch from American swimmer Janet Evans.

The Ali shuffle used to be a sight fans paid hundreds of dollars to see, a whir of feet that mesmerised and demoralised opponents before his fists finished the job.

The shuffle seen at the opening ceremony was the best a sick man could manage.

Ali's laborious efforts, with hands shaking and determination etched on his motionless face, to light the Olympic flame squeezed the hearts of everyone who watched him.

Some thought his lack of emotion showed he was too ill to know what was happening around him. But the doubters were proved wrong at the Georgia Dome on Saturday when 36 years on, Ali was given back his gold.

As IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch placed the gold around his neck, Ali kissed him on both cheeks before kissing the medal. He was immediately mobbed by Kurt Maloe and other members of the dream team.

And then, like dawn breaking over a desolate landscape, Ali smiled.

The smile turned into the boyish grin that started out of a million magazines 30 years ago and the 35,000 people in the stadium exploded into tumultuous applause.

Many of those cheering would have had little time for Ali during his fight for black rights.

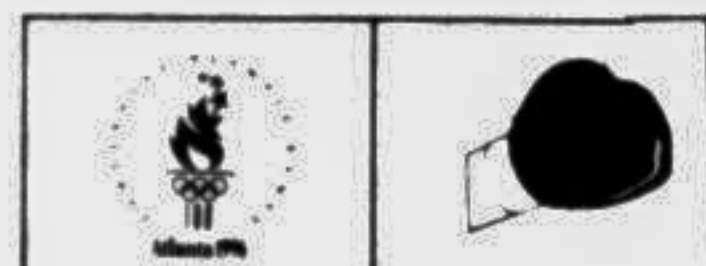
But the success of his principled stand could be seen in the men hugging and shaking his hand, the dream team, worshipped by a nation imperious to their colour.

Anfernee Hardaway summed up what many in the crowd felt. "I think when Mr Ali came out the emotions were shown for everything he did back then. He got the applause he deserves for all the struggle he had to go through back there. He's still the greatest in our hearts."



FROM ATLANTA TO SYDNEY: Frank Sartor, the Mayor of Sydney, hosts of Olympic 2000, carries the Olympic flag during the closing ceremony of the Centennial Atlanta Games on August 4. — AFP/UNB photo

## A maiden mark



ATLANTA, Aug 5: Somluck Kamsing won Thailand's first Olympic boxing gold medal on Sunday when he beat Bulgarian Serafim Todorov in the featherweight final, reports Reuter.

With former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali watching at ringside, the Thai soldier won 8-5 after leading from the start and floating for much of the third round.

He led 2-1 at the end of the first round and 5-2 after the second as the Bulgarian, who beat American favourite Floyd Mayweather in the semifinals, was frustrated by the Thai's nimble footwork.

Tiny Tonga's dream of a sensational Olympic gold medal was dashed when super-heavyweight Paea Woliggramm, fighting with a broken nose and wrist, was beaten in the final.

But US light-middleweight David Reid, hugely outpointed and starting defeat in the face floor-d Cuban Alfredo Duvergel

## Dutch spikers strike gold

ATLANTA, Aug 5: The Netherlands, silver medalists in 1992, won Olympic gold in the men's volleyball tournament when they beat Italy in a thrilling five-set final on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The Dutch, defeated in the Barcelona Olympic final by Brazil, finally prevailed 15-12, 9-15, 16-14, 9-15, 17-15 in a match which could have gone either way in a dramatic last set.

Yugoslavia defeated Russia to take the bronze in the preceding third-place play-off, winning 15-8, 7-15, 15-8, 15-9.

The Dutch took the closely-contested third set after saving a set point against them at 14-13 down.

This put them two sets to one in front but Italy, bronze medalists at the 1984 Los Angeles games, were far from finished.

The Italians took a 4-1 lead in the fourth set and, although the Dutch came back to 6-6 and 7-7, another spurt saw Italy square the match at two sets each.

The last set was closely contested to the end, like the third.

## Akram amerces Durham



CHESTER-LE-STREET, England, Aug 5: Wasim Akram hit a swashbuckling 68 in 67 deliveries and seized two wickets with the new ball to transform Pakistan's fortunes against Durham on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Captain and dashing all-rounder Akram first lifted the touring team from a precarious 157 for six to 309 all out — a first innings lead of two.

Then Akram's two-wicket burst, allied to two wickets with consecutive balls from Alaur Rahman, reduced Durham's second innings to 15 for four.

Off-spinner Saqlain Mush-taq also struck twice as Durham, bottom of the county championship without a win in their 12 games, declined to 96 for seven by the close on the second day of the three-day match.

Ironically, the man who plunged Pakistan into trouble was left-arm pace bowler Simon Brown, dropped earlier in the day from England's



WASIM AKRAM

squad for the second Test starting at Headingley on Thursday.

Brown took his tally of first-class victims to 63 for the season, capturing four of the first six Pakistani wickets to fall and finishing with five for 88. He sent back openers Saeed



Gold medalist Cuba's Makikro Romero (R) lands a right jab on Kazakhstan's Bulat Dzumadilov during their 51-kg flyweight Olympic final on August 4. — AFP/UNB photo