

Linford's last rites delayed

GATESHEAD, England, Aug. 20: Linford Christie promised to make a final "last appearance" next year after injury prevented his planned international 100-metre swansong on Monday, reports Reuters.

The former Olympic and world champion, running for the 64th time for his country against an international select team, finished second in a 200-metre race behind English compatriot John Regis.

But in doing so he sustained a knee injury and pulled out of the shorter sprint, his second big disappointment in the 100 metres after two false starts caused his disqualification in Atlanta.

A 10,000 crowd had turned out at the Gateshead Stadium to see 36-year-old Christie in action for a last time, only to be denied in the 100 metres.

But afterwards Christie said he would still be prepared to run for Britain in the European Cup next year.

"I told (British coach) Malcolm Arnold that I will do the European Cup next year. But that will be it there will be no other international meetings," he said.

The 200 went to Regis in 20.62 seconds, 0.02 ahead of Christie while the 100 metres was won by world record holder and Olympic champion Donovan Bailey in a time of 10.19.

Bailey thrilled the crowd before and after the race by sporting a Newcastle United soccer shirt with the figure 9.84 on the back, the time of his world record set at the Atlanta Games.

Newcastle is just a few kms from Gateshead on the other side of the River Tyne.

The Canadian, watched by Newcastle players Peter Beardsley and Les Ferdinand, said of the shirt: "I'm going to frame this one and keep it in my house."

Earlier, Britain's Roger Black showed the form which brought him two silver medals in Atlanta.

Jewell sums up situation

ATLANTA, Aug. 20: Olympic bomb suspect Richard Jewell is considering whether he has grounds to sue the FBI and the news media over the way they treated him since the July 27 explosion, one of his lawyers said on Monday.

Lin Wood, one of two civil attorneys hired by Jewell last week, told Reuters his legal team will investigate the federal leaks that identified the 33-year-old security guard as a suspect in the bombing at Centennial Olympic Park.

"We have to look into whether there has been a violation of his civil rights or his constitutional rights," the attorney said in a telephone interview.

"We're going to be investigating how this was handled — how Richard Jewell was charged and convicted in the court of public opinion without ever being charged by the government."

An FBI spokesman declined to comment on the attorney's remarks.

Wood and his civil law partner, Wayne Grant, are the latest additions to a legal team that already includes a prominent criminal lawyer and a chief counsel.

They also have been hired to defend Jewell against two lawsuits by bomb victims who named him as a defendant.

Jewell, a former police officer who worked as a security guard for Olympic sponsor AT&T Corp during the Centennial Games, remained a suspect in the bombing that left two dead and more than 100 injured.

But more than three weeks after the attack, he had not been charged with any crime and no arrest appeared to be imminent. He has steadfastly maintained his innocence.

The bomb exploded during a free outdoor concert at the park in downtown Atlanta as thousands of people crowded into the area.

Jewell was hailed as a hero for finding the green knapsack that contained the pipe bomb and for helping to clear crowds from the area before it detonated.

Days later, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that he was a suspect in the case. Within hours, hordes of television cameras, photographers and journalists set up camp outside his suburban home. Some remained there on Monday.

Meanwhile, the FBI conducted several searches in the hope of turning up evidence.

Be disciplined or suffer!

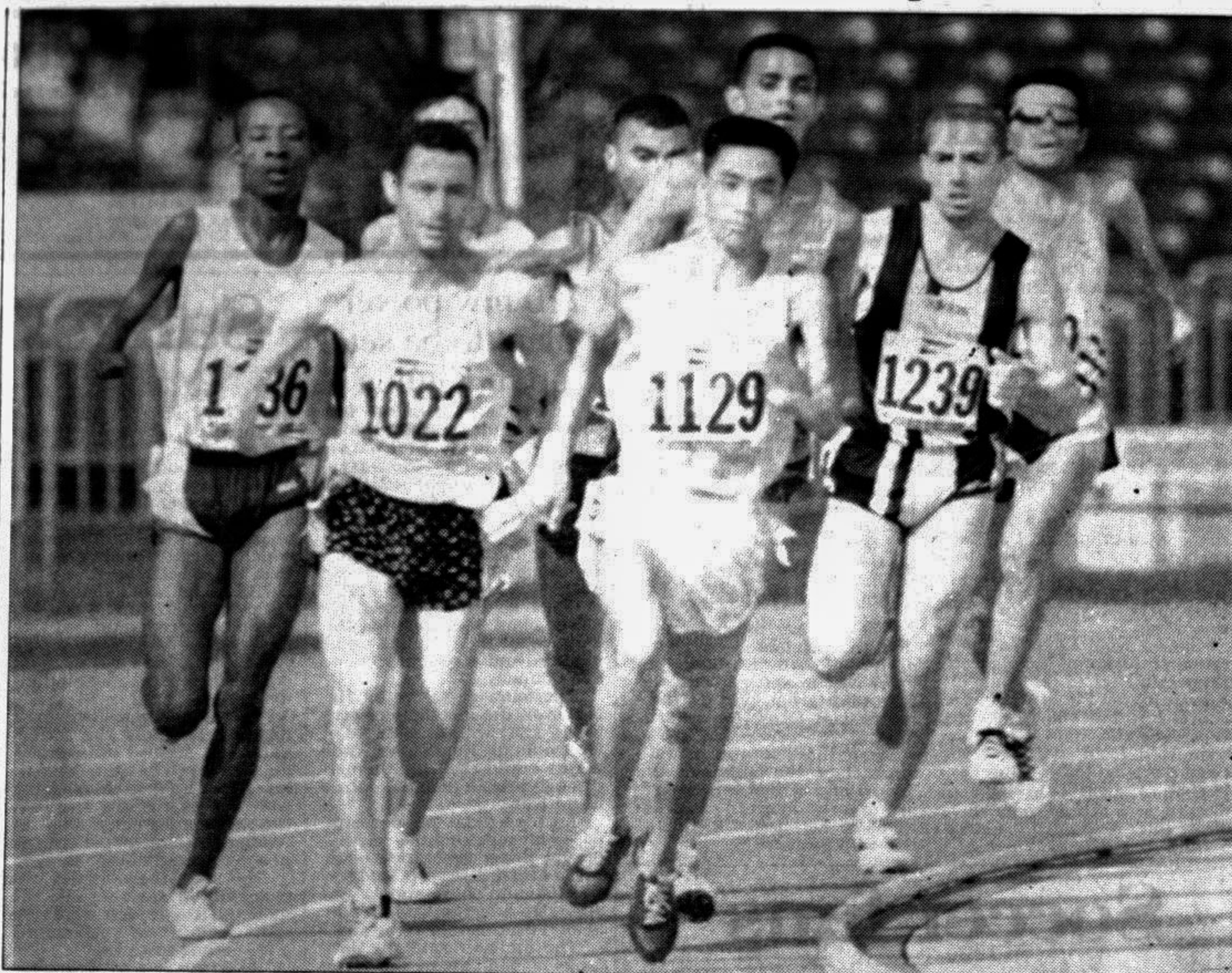
LONDON, Aug. 20: English soccer clubs with poor disciplinary records have been warned to clean up their act, reports Reuters.

Queens Park Rangers were fined 25,000 pounds (38,650 dollars) on Monday because they had four players sent off last season. Wimbledon were fined 10,000 pounds (15,500 dollars).

QPR also have a 50,000 pounds (77,300 dollars) suspended fine hanging over them which could be activated if their record has not improved when it is reviewed next year.

Wimbledon, Middlesbrough, Manchester City, Millwall, Portsmouth and Luton also have suspended fines over them.

English FA spokesman Steve Double warned: "Clubs who are in this situation with suspended fines in place are expected to show a marked improvement in their disciplinary records."



Competitors in the men's 800 metres T44 and 46 classification finals in the 1996 Paralympics Games in Atlanta on August 19.

Woodies' mixed fortune

TORONTO, Aug. 20: Australian Mark Woodbridge, the 15th seed, was beaten Monday by compatriot and long-time doubles partner Todd Woodbridge in the first round of the Canadian Open, reports Reuters.

Woodbridge, ranked 43rd in the world, defeated Woodford, ranked 30th, 6-3, 7-5. Woodford was one of two seeded players to lose on the opening day of the tournament.

Tenth-seeded Arnaud Boetsch of France was upset by unseeded Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy 3-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Alberto Berasategui of Spain, seeded 11th, needed just 50 minutes to dispatch 50th-ranked Filip Dewulf of Belgium 6-4, 6-0 and another Spaniard, unseeded Alex Corretja, defeated France's Guy Forget 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Corretja, ranked 32nd, plays sixth-seeded American Maliw Washington in the second round. Washington and the rest of the top eight seeds were given first-round byes.

Australian Patrick Rafter survived a hotly contested opening set against Spain's Carlos Costa and won 7-6, (8-6), 6-2.

Woodbridge has beaten Woodford in their last four meetings and holds a 5-2 career advantage.

Top-seeded in the doubles at the Canadian Open and ranked first in the world, the Australian pair are Olympic gold medalists and four-time defending champions at Wimbledon.

"We hate it when we play each other," Woodbridge said of their singles match up. "We're both nervous because we respect each other and appreciate each other's games."

Woodbridge had a double-break point to lead 3-0 in the second set after taking the first set with a service break in the eighth game.

But Woodbridge saved both break points and then won four games in a row, capitalising on three Woodbridge double faults in the sixth game to go ahead.

"When Mark got up and started to be more aggressive, I got a little tentative," Woodbridge said. "I was lucky to get back to 4-4 straightaway. Mark let me back in that second set with a couple of errors."

The Corretja-Forget match, played on the hard-court surface at the National Tennis Centre in Toronto, featured many exciting and extended rallies.

Centre in Toronto. Featured many exciting and extended rallies.

"He didn't play well in the first set but then he played better in the second set and I began to doubt myself," said Corretja. "Then I played an unbelievable game, three passing shots and a top-spin lob, to break him for 5-3 in the third set."

"He hit four winners and played a perfect game to break me so I can't be too upset," said the 58th-ranked Forget, who was playing his first match in a month after a back ailment.

Corretja and Forget are two of a record 36 Europeans in the 56-player Canadian Open field.

With this year's tournament date changed from late July to a week before the US Open because of the Olympics, the Europeans were more inclined to play in Toronto in order to get ready for flushing meadows.

However, the top four Americans — Pete Sampras, Michael Chang, Andre Agassi and Jim Courier, regulars at this ATP Tour super nine event — have decided to skip it this year.

The tournament's top seed's second-ranked Thomas Muster of Austria.

PFA's nightmare

LONDON, Aug. 20: Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) chief executive Gordon Taylor spoke of his fears on Friday of a fresh conflict next season with the Premier League, reports AFP.

Taylor and the PFA are facing the prospect of a possible strike by footballers, with PFA negotiators fighting for 10 per cent of the newly-sponsored Football League's 25 million pound (£37.5 million dollars) deal with satellite broadcaster BSkyB.

Previously, the PFA consistently accepted less than the agreed 10 per cent each year of the old 9 million pound agreement with Independent Television, but are now insisting on the full entitlement from the much bigger, new BSkyB deal.

Now the Premier league have also re-negotiated with BSkyB — and will receive 185 million pounds a year from 1997. Taylor has accused Premier league chief executive Rick Parry of encouraging the Football League's stand on re-negotiating with the players.

Taylor believes that football's new golden era could eventually explode into anarchy and ruin unless top professionals are recruited as cabinet-style ministers to manage and control the distribution of the game's spectacular new wealth.

Saint-Denis, a suburban town near Paris. Financed through private and public investment, the \$360 million stadium — due to be completed in early 1998 — will host the World Cup opening ceremony, the grand final and several other matches.

When the competition is over, it will become the new French National sporting arena, succeeding Parc des Princes in Paris, which will remain home of Paris St Germain soccer team.

The Grand Stade will then be made available for a wide range of sports, including Rugby Union and athletics.

Taking a lead from recent major football events — including the 1994 World Cup in the United States — France promises to dismantle all perimeter fencing and internal barriers. The sealed supporters of the national teams will, instead, be segregated by bands of neutral spectators.

Closed-circuit television will be installed, and international police forces will pool resources to counter any hooligan threat, working through Interpol.

The French secret service will be charged with shielding the event from any possible terrorist threat.

Platini will be hoping that some of the shine of his illustrious career rubs off on the contest. He is the only player to have been declared European footballer-of-the-year three times — from 1983 to 1985. He was also twice named world footballer-of-the-year.

A hugely talented midfielder playmaker with a keen eye for goal, he ended his international career with a score of 41 goals in 72 matches — a record envied by many specialist strikers.

Platini won the European Cup with Juventus in 1985, and, in the blue of France, he was central to three of his best international moments: two World Cup semifinals in the 1980s and their 1984 European Championship victory.

He retired from playing in 1987, and worked in a variety of business roles before coaching the French national team for several years and then taking on the role of 1998 World Cup tournament director.

When the contest is over, Platini plans to retire from soccer for good, but not before giving the world what he says will be "the best World Cup anybody has ever seen".

About the Author: Peter Hayes covers European affairs, and takes a special interest in sport.

A trip to record books



UNDATED, Aug. 20 (AP): Those athletes who are now glittering in the enviable pages of record books

(all race distances in metres unless specified):

MEN

100: Donovan Bailey, Canada, 9.84 seconds, 1996.
200: Michael Johnson, United States, 19.32, 1996.
400: Butch Reynolds, United States, 43.29, 1988.
800: Sebastian Coe, Britain, 1 minute, 41.73 seconds, 1981.
1,000: Sebastian Coe, Britain, 2:12.18, 1981.
1,500: Noureddine Morceli, Algeria, 3:27.37, 1995.
2,000: Noureddine Morceli, Algeria, 3:44.39, 1993.
2,000: Noureddine Morceli, Algeria, 4:47.88, 1995.
3,000: Noureddine Morceli, Algeria, 7:25.11, 1994.
4,000: Steeplechase: Moses Kiptanui, Kenya, 7:59.18, 1995.
Two-mile: Daniel Komen, Kenya, 8:07.46, 1996; Haile Gebrselassie Ethiopia, 8:07.47, 1995.
5,000: Haile Gebrselassie, Ethiopia, 12:44.39, 1995.
10,000: Haile Gebrselassie, Ethiopia, 26:43.53, 1995.
20,000: Arturo Barrios, Mexico, 56:55.6, 1991.
25,000: Toshihiko Seko, Japan, 1:13:55.8, 1981.
30,000: Toshihiko Seko, Japan, 1:29:18.8, 1981.
110 hurdles: Colin Jackson, Britain, 1:29.1, 1993.
400 hurdles: Kevin Young, United States, 46.78, 1992.
Marathon: Belahcen Densimo, Ethiopia, 2 hours, 6 minutes, 50 seconds, 1988.
20-kilometre walk: Bernardo Segura, Mexico, 1:17:25, 1994.
30-kilometre walk: Maurizio Damilano, Italy, 2:01:44.1, 1992.
50-kilometre walk: Rene Piller, France, 3:41:28.2, 1994.
400 relay: US Olympic team, 1992; US World Championship team, 1993, 37.40.
800 relay: Santa Monica Track Club, 1:18.68, 1994.
1,600 relay: US World Championships team, 2:54.29, 1993.
3,200 relay: Britain, 7:03.89, 1982.
6,000 relay: West Germany, 14:38.8, 1977.
High jump: Javier Sotomayor, Cuba, 2.45 metres (8 feet-0 1/2 inches), 1993.
Pole vault: Sergei Bubka, Ukraine, 6.14 (20-1 3/4), 1994.
Long jump: Mike Powell, United States, 8.95 (29-4 1/2), 1991.
Triple jump: Jonathan Edwards, Britain, 18.29 (60-0 1/4), 1995.
Shot put: Randy Barnes, United States, 23.12 (75-10 1/4), 1990.
Discus: Jurgen Schult, East Germany, 74.08 (243-0), 1986.
Javelin: Jan Zeleny, Czech Republic, 98.48 metres (323-1/8), 1996.

Hammer: Yuri Sedykh, Soviet Union, 84.74 (284-7), 1986.
Decathlon: Dan O'Brien, United States, 8,891 points, 1992.

WOMEN

100: Florence Griffith Joyner, United States, 10.49, 1988.
200: Florence Griffith Joyner, United States, 21.34, 1988.
400: Marita Koch, East Germany, 47.60, 1985.
800: Jarmila Kratochvilova, Czechoslovakia, 1:53.28, 1983.
1,000: Maria Mutola, Mozambique, 2:29.33, 1995.
1,500: Qu Yanxia, China, 3:50.46, 1993.
2,000: Svetlana Masterkova, Russia, 4:12.56, 1996.
3,000: Sonia O'Sullivan, Ireland, 5:25.36, 1994.
4,000: Wang Junxia, China, 8:06.11, 1993.
5,000: Fernanda Ribeiro, Portugal, 14:36.45, 1995.
10,000: Wang Junxia, China, 29:31.78, 1993.
20,000: Izumi Maki, Japan, 1:06:48.8, 1993.
25,000: Karolina Szabo, Hungary, 1:29:29.2, 1988.
30,000: Karolina Szabo, Hungary, 1:47:05.6, 1988.
100 hurdles: Yordanka Donkova, Bulgaria, 12.21, 1988.
400 hurdles: Kim Batten, United States, 52.61, 1995.
Marathon: Ingrid Kristiansen, Norway, 2:21:06, 1985.

Marathon (loop course): Lisa Ondieki, Australia, 2:23:51, 1988.

3,000 walk: Ileana Salvador, Italy, 1:14:24, 1993.
5,000 walk: Kerry Saxby-Johna, Australia, 20:03.00, 1996.
10,000 walk: Yelena Nikolayeva, Russia, 41:04, 1996.
400 relay: East Germany, 41.37, 1985.
800 relay: East Germany, 1:28.15, 1980.
1,600 relay: Soviet Union, 3:15.17, 1988.
3,200 relay: Soviet Union, 7:50.17, 1984.
High jump: Stefka Kostadinova, Bulgaria, 2.09 (6-10 1/4), 1987.
Pole vault: Emma George, Australia, 4.45 (14-7 1/4), 1996.
Long jump: Galina Chistyakova, Soviet Union, 7.52 (24-8 1/4), 1988.

Triple jump: Inessa Kravets, Ukraine, 15.50 metres (50-10 1/4), 1995.
Shot put: Natalya Lisovskaya, Soviet Union, 22.63 (74-3/8), 1987.
Hammer: Olga Kuzenkova, Russia, 69.46 (227-11), 1996.
Discus: Gabriele Reinsch, East Germany, 76.80 (252-0), 1988.
Javelin: Petra Felke, East Germany, 80.00 (262-5/8), 1988.
Heptathlon: Jackie Joyner-Kersey, United States, 7,291 points, 1988.

IAAF's tough stance



SYDNEY, Aug. 20: The International Amateur Athletic Federation may strip national bodies of their powers to punish drug cheats, a senior IAAF official said today, reports Reuters.

IAAF general secretary Istvan Gyulai said the sport's world ruling body would consider amending its rules to centralise the process of sentencing athletes who return positive dope tests.

Two athletes — Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco and Italian high jumper Antonella Bevilacqua — were allowed to compete at the Atlanta Olympics after failing drugs tests before the Games.

"When we faced the Capobianco case in Atlanta we came to the conclusion our rules would probably have to be amended," Gyulai told a news conference in Sydney ahead of the World Union Championships starting on Wednesday. Asked if this meant the IAAF assuming the right to suspend athletes, Gyulai said: "If necessary, yes."

Both Capobianco and Bevilacqua were freed to compete in Atlanta after lodging appeals with their respective national bodies, as allowed under current IAAF rules.

Capobianco tested positive for the steroid stanozolol at a meeting in the Dutch town of Hengelo in May but an athletics Australia tribunal dismissed the charge, citing flaws in the testing process.

Bevilacqua was caught twice with the banned stimulant ephedrine in her body in May. An Italian athletics panel decided she had taken the drug by mistake and did not impose the usual three-month ban.

The IAAF said in Atlanta last month they decided not to ban the two athletes from the Olympics because they said they feared being taken to court and sued.

Instead, the cases were referred to the International Olympic committee's Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Gyulai described the IAAF's case against Capobianco as "weak" but added the federation would abide by the CAS decision, which he said would be "final and binding."

Solid start for Chang



COMMACK, New York, Aug. 20: Top seed Michael Chang came off a week's rest and handily beat unseeded David Prinosil of Germany 6-1, 6-3 on Monday in the opening round of the Wimbledon Hamlet Cup tournament, reports Reuters.

Chang, ranked third in the world, needed only 68 minutes to eliminate Prinosil, ranked 64th.

Chang opened a 3-0 lead and closed the match by taking the last four games. "It was a good match for me and it felt good playing on a Monday for a change," Chang said. "My schedule was planned this way to give me a rest before the Hamlet and let me get some good matches and go right into the US Open."

Chang said planned rests during the ATP hard court circuit had been successful. He won 14 successive matches, taking titles in Washington and Los Angeles before losing a final in Cincinnati to Andre Agassi last week.

A pair of players from Morocco, Younes El Aynaoui, the sixth seed, and Hicham Arazi, unseeded, posted first-round victories.

El Aynaoui, top-ranked in his home country for the past six years, beat Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador 6-4, 6-3. Arazi, a slightly built left-hander who is playing his first year on the ATP Tour, upset eighth-seeded Magnus Larsson of Sweden, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.

Arazi, who has steadily climbed from a ranking of

16 Americans get wild cards for US Open

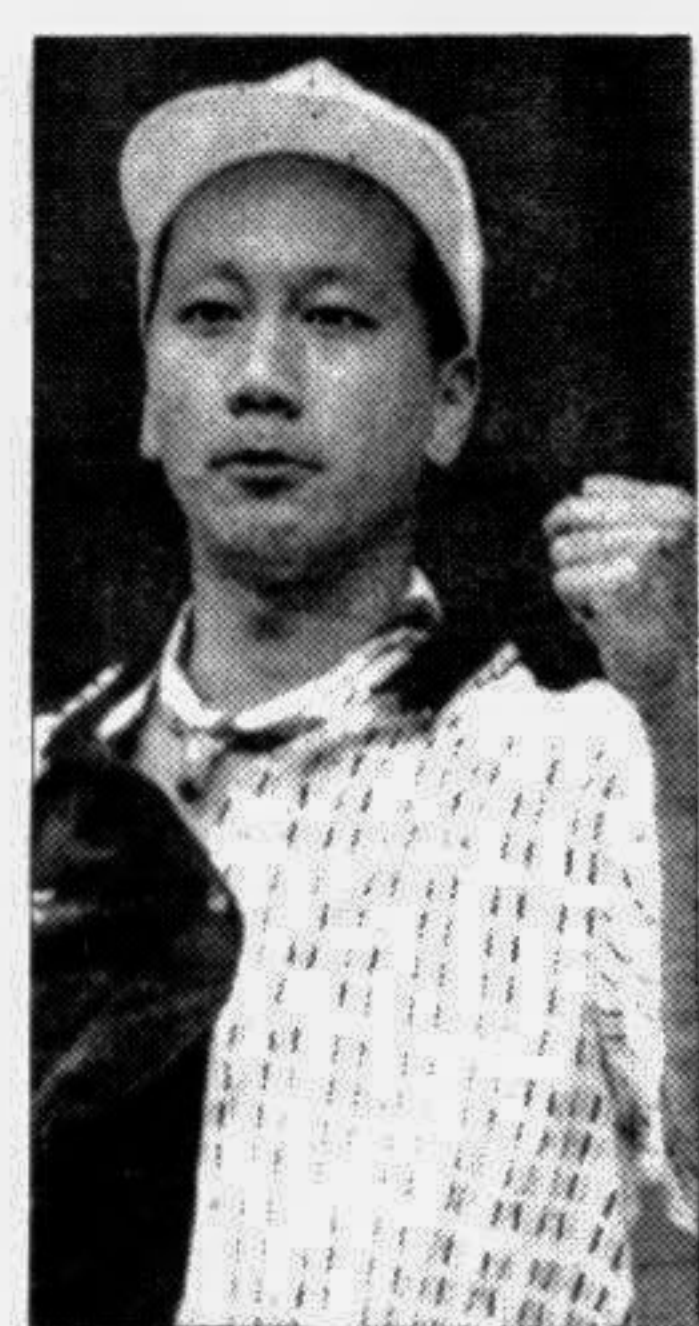
NEW YORK, Aug. 20: Alex O'Brien, coming off his first ATP victory, and four-time US Open doubles champion Pam Shriver were among 16 American players named Monday as wild card entries for this year's US Open, reports AFP.

O'Brien was rated 169th when he won the ATP international final on Sunday, becoming the lowest rated player to win a tour event this year. He was a wild card entrant there as well.

Shriver, a 1978 US Open singles finalist, will make her 18th and possibly final Open appearance.

Other women receiving wild cards include US college champion Jill Craybas, US junior champion Lilia Osterloh, plus Debbie Graham, Kristina Brandt, Tami Whittinger Jones, Kathy Rinaldi-Stunkel and Meghann Shaughnessy.

Other men's wild cards were David Wheaton, Jared Palmer, Doug Flach, Jim Grabb, Scott Humphries, UD college champion Cecil Mamlit and US junior champion Kevin Kim.



MICHAEL CHANG

1,093rd in 1991 to a current 82nd, tenaciously fought off Larsson, who failed to convert 10 of 12 break points.

Larsson, who ranked 10th before suffering a fractured foot last year and was out of action five months, is now ranked 59th.

"It takes time to work back into shape. It shakes your confidence," he said.

Arazi, who qualified for the US Open last year and lost a four-set first-rounder to Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev, said he is playing with confidence.

"I beat Medvedev in Bologna this year," he said. "It felt good. Now I'm going to get into the US Open main draw with my ranking. I want to win my first match and then take it day by day."

In beating Larsson, Arazi overcame three double faults to hold service in a 14-point game and stay two all in the third set. He then broke Larsson and protected service from 0-30 and 30-all down the stretch.

Soccer world set for cook-and-ball story

As the dust settles after the excitement and shocks of this year's Olympics, many sports fans are now looking forward to another major international spectacle — the 1998 World Cup soccer finals. Gemini News Service reports that the French organisers are out to prove they have something to crow about.

AFTER the drama and exhilaration of this year's European nations' soccer championship finals in England, the focus of world football now switches to neighbouring France, host to the 1998 World Cup.

As the qualifying competition starts in earnest, only two of the 32 teams that will compete in the finals are certain of their places: France, as host nation, and Brazil, as reigning champion.

For the opening shot of an extended publicity campaign, the French are asking the public to suggest names for their newly-designed World Cup emblem: a red-and-blue cock (cock) carrying a "France 98" football.

The mascot will eventually appear on millions of pieces of World Cup merchandise, from T-shirts to car stickers.

The cock is a traditional sporting emblem of France. Live birds are sometimes taken to international sports events, often to be thrown onto the field to inspire the French competitors — a practice the French authorities have been trying to stamp out.

Results of the public-consultation exercise are promised before the end of the year. In the meantime, the footballing rooster is simply referred to as Le Coq.

The contest will consist of 64 matches at 10 venues: Paris, Saint-Denis, Marseille, Lyon, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Lens, Montpellier, Tarbes and Saint-Etienne.

About 2.5 million tickets will be available to the public, with around half being reserved for French spectators.

The event will follow the traditional format of early group matches followed by a knock-out tournament. As before, there will also be a play-off match to decide the third and fourth places.

When the event was awarded to France by the world football governing body, FIFA, former soccer superstar Michel Platini was a popular choice as tournament director and the event's

Peter Hayes writes from Paris

major spokesperson. One of the most successful French sportsmen of all time, he is also fluent in several European languages.

So far, the problems tackled have ranged from transport — France is the largest European country to stage the event — through to the building and updating of football stadiums.

One of the biggest unsolved

headaches is how to accommodate the ever-growing media interest. The contest already looks likely to be the most broadcast and written-about sports event of all time, even beating this year's Olympic Games.

The biggest financial investment is in the Grand Stade, a new 80,000-seat stadium in

