

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 if 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!

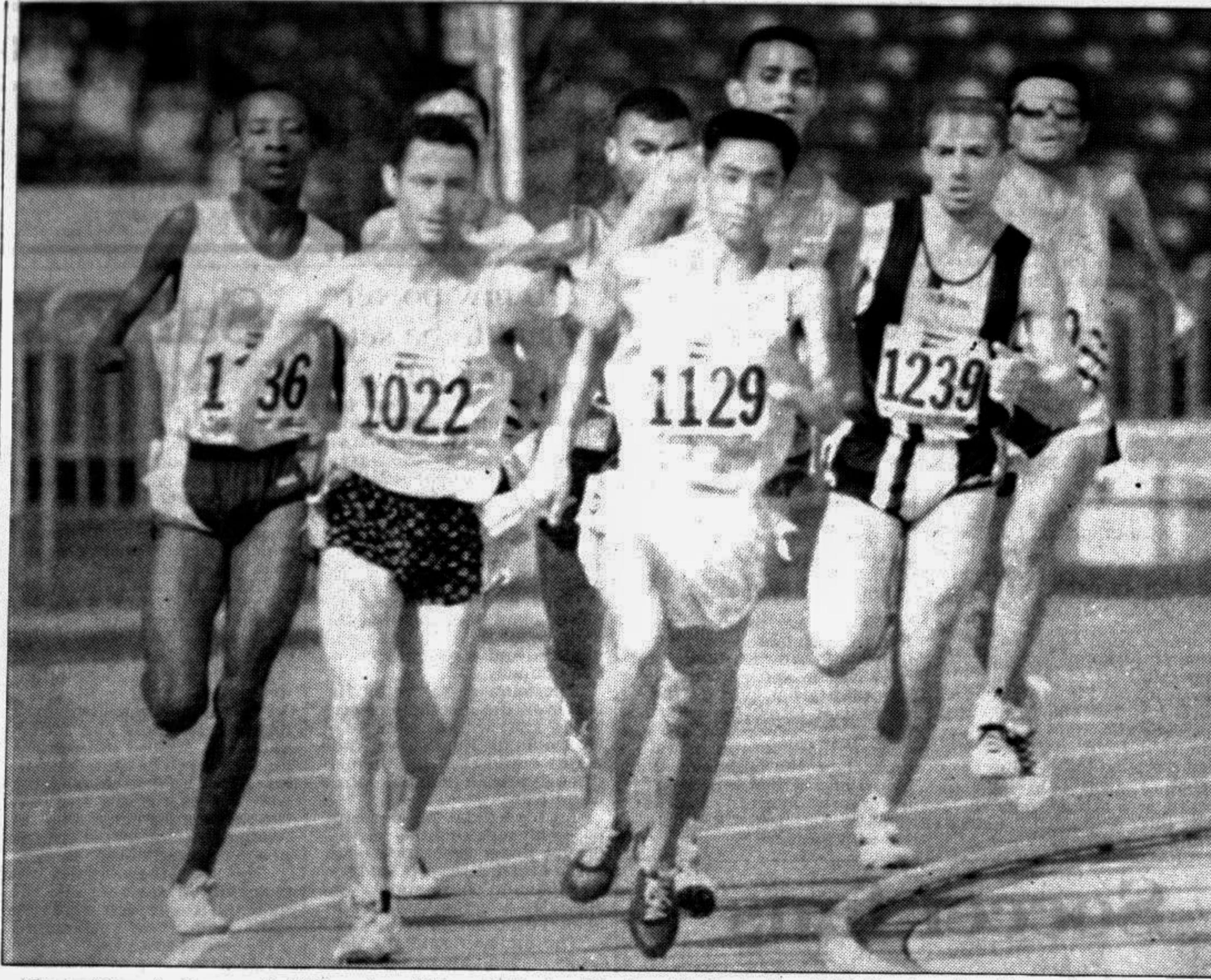
LONDON, Aug 20: English soccer clubs with poor disciplinary records have been warned to clean up their act, reports Reuters.

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.

— AFP/UNB photo

Woodies' mixed fortune



TORONTO, Aug 20:

Australian Mark Woodforde, 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 Woodforde, ranked 30th, 6-3, 7-5. Woodforde 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 the 33-year-old security guard as a suspect in the bombing at Centennial Olympic Park.

"We hate it when we play each other," Woodforde 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 fifth game of the tournament.

But Woodforde 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.

Corretja, ranked 32nd, plays sixth-seeded American Malivoir 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.

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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 is second-ranked Thomas Muster of Austria.

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.

But Woodforde 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 4 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."

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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 renegotiating 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 seated 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 midfield 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 their 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". — Gemini

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.

Mile: 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.

3,000: 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, 12.91, 1993.

400 hurdles: Kevin Young, United States, 46.78, 1992.

Marathon: Belayneh Densimo, Ethiopia, 2:02:48.2, 1994.

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, 201-3 4-3, 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: Jürgen Schult, East Germany, 76.08 (243-0), 1986.

Javelin: Jan Zelezny, Czechoslovakia, 1988.

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 epinephrine 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