said a return was likely, but

took exception to Boca's tradi-

tional blue-and-gold jersey

which now has white lines

shirt made by German sporting

goods company Puma, his per-

He insisted he wear his own

A Boca official said

"(I'm) not mad.... I cannot do

Maradona last played for

Boca in August and admits he

needs at least a month to shed

excess weight before playing

During Tuesday's interview,

"I want to play to prove to the

Maradona has made several

brief comebacks in recent years

since serving two 15-month

bans for drug abuse. His last

suspension came after failing a

Last year, he admitted hav-

ing a cocaine addiction and un-

derwent a drug rehabilitation

Wednesday's tie represents the

last opportunity for success af-

wingers Robert Jarni and Findi

George and three other players

to international duty — have

not reached the final for 20

Barcelona in this year's final is

especially important as it could

determine which continental

competition the Southerners

tually a certainly, Betis cur-

rently trail the Catalans only

on goal difference in the league.

to seal Spain's second European

Cup place, leaving a berth in the

Cup Winners' Cup to a team who

Barcelona manager Bobby

Robson is sure enough of a re-

sult to rest goalkeeper Vitor

Baia, who played a fine game

against Valencia on Sunday

just 24 hours after turning out

Popescu and Laurent Blanc and

strikers Ronaldo and Em-

manuel Amunike will all an-

swer the call of country rather

than club of Thursday evening.

Bariuan who fractured his arm

Also out is defender Sergi

There will be a young player

Saudi Arabia are obvious

favourites for the national

team award though they could

be challenged by Japan's

Olympic side which beat star

studded Brazilian team 1-0 in

club champions Ilhwa Chunma

are pitted against Thuniyan's

Asian Cup Winners' Cup title

the only Asian to coach a side

in the last four of the Asian

Cup, has been nominated for

the coach award with Akira

Nishino of the Japanese

Olympic side and Ma Yunan,

coach of the Chinese women's

team that lost to the United

States in the Olympic women's

Iran's Mohammad Kohan.

On the club side, Ko's Asian

of-the-year, coach-of-the-year,

and national and club team-of-

But defenders Gheorghe

finish third in the league and

With a UEFA Cup place vir-

One of the two clubs looks set

play next season.

lose the final

for Portugal

in the first leg.

the-year.

Atlanta last July.

holders Al-Hilal.

Swiss cyclist Mauro Gianetti crosses the line to win the

58th annual Paris-Camembert race in Vinoutiers, France

- AFP/UNB photo

Securing a meeting with

Betis - who will lose key

ter a mediocre season.

finals in the United States.

program in Switzerland.

he refused to rule out a return

with another club. He said there

Americans that I'm not dead,"

was an added incentive.

he said.

Barca minus big guns

years.

Maradona had also objected to

early training sessions since he

was finding it. "increasingly

difficult to get up in the morn-

it, if I train everyday I will die,'

he said on television.

added at Nike's request.

sonal sponsor.

#### Unfriendly end to a friendly match

TOLUCA, Mexico, Apr 2: A friendly soccer match between Jamaica's national team and a Mexican First Division squad ended in a pitched battle on Tuesday that forced the referee to scrap the game, reports Reuter.

Several Mexican players were injured when members of Toros Neza and the Jamaican squad punched and kicked each other for five minutes during the match.

Several Jamaican players then stormed off the field and returned waving bricks and broken glass to hold the angry Mexican side at bay.

Jamaica was leading Toros Neza 1-0 in the 19th minute when a Jamaican mid-fielder slid hard into Toros' Argentineborn German Arangio. He got to his feet and punched the Jamaican tackler and an all-out fight ensued.

The Jamaican squad was in Mexico to prepare for its April 13 World Cup qualifying match against hosts Mexico, which currently lead the CONCACAF

region standings. The Mexican First Division squad said the Jamaicans were playing far too dirty on Tuesday, tackling hard and trying to provoke them.

That is not normal behaviour. It isn't possible that they react like this in a friendly," said Neza's Argentine striker Antonio Mohamed.

Brazilian-born Jamaica coach Rene Simoes defended his players saying they lacked international experience.

#### McCall ordered to mental hospital

MARTINSVILLE, Virginia, Apr 2: Former world heavyweight champion Oliver McCall was ordered to a mental hospital after his wife took out an emergency custody order

against him, reports AP. Documents released Tuesday said McCall "presents an imminent danger to (him) self or others as a result of mental illness or is so seriously mentally ill as to be substantially unable to care for (him) self."

McCall was picked up in Martinsville on Saturday after his wife took out the emergency

custody order, police said. McCall was evaluated by a mental health expert, who testified at a detention hearing Saturday night that McCall was mentally ill and in need of hospitalisation. He was sent to the Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute in Danville.

An involuntary commitment hearing is planned to determine whether he should be held for further observation

and evaluation. McCall was placed on 18 months probation in December after pleading guilty to possession of marijuana and cocaine in Cook County, Illinois. He was also arrested in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in early April 1996 and charged with

marijuana possession. McCall spent time at a North Carolina drug rehabilitation center in August. At the time his manager, Jimmy Adams, said McCall was being treated for

marijuana and cocaine abuse. "Drugs took over his life, and now he's trying to take his life back," Adams said in August.

#### WBA bouts in Apr

CARACAS, Apr 2: The World Boxing Association (WBA) announced here on Tuesday that three of their title holders would defend their titles in April, reports AFP.

American fighter Virgil Hill, the 1984 Olympic gold medalist and world light heavyweight champion since 1987, will fight the German World Boxing Organisation (WBO) holder Darius Michalczewski in Hamburg on April 19.

Ike Quartey of Ghana, who

won the title in knocking out

Venezuelan Crisanto Espana in

June 1994, will defend his wel-

terweight title against Tiger

Jones in Las Vegas on April 18 and super middleweight champion Frank Liles of the United States is slated to fight the Ecuadorian Segundo Mercado in mid-April. Holme's hoax COPENHAGEN, Apr 2: Larry Holmes is confident enough about his third comeback at-

tempt that on Friday he abandoned the hallowed tradition of pre-bout braggadocio, reports "I'm so old ... I can't fight. I'm just the one who comes here to get beaten up," Holmes joked at

a news conference a week before his fight with Brian Nielsen for the fringe IBO heavyweight ti-"My body is ready to take what Nielsen has to offer," said the 47-year-old Holmes, who

was the world's premier heavyweight in the late 1970s and early '80s. The Danish Nielsen, holder of the IBO crown, is 16 years younger than Holmes. The two

are to square off for a 12-round fight on Jan 24 in suburban Copenhagen. Holmes, 65-5 with 42, knokouts, said Nielson "only had

met guys he could easily beat. The Dane has a record of 31-0

with 19 knock-outs. Holmes, who retired for the third time after he knocked out Anthony Willis - 19 years his junior - in the eighth round on June 16, said he fit for fight. He announced last fall that he was

coming back into action

## Boca in Diego dilemma

Apr 2 (AP): Diego Maradona just couldn't do it. The 36-yearold soccer star

had been offered a comeback with Boca Juniors. Desperate to play again, he cleared the air with the club's . president, a sworn enemy. He even mulled Boca's conditions: daily training, a ban on insulting club officials - and a psychological test.

But ultimately, he couldn't stomach the idea of wearing Boca's Nike-sponsored jersey.

"I just can't stand the Americans," the former Argentine captain and best player of his generation said during a television interview Tuesday.

"It's a sad day. But I realised I couldn't do it while eating a steak at home last night," he

added. More than a decade after leading Argentina almost single-handedly to a World Cup triumph in Mexico in 1986, Maradona still dominates news coverage whenever he contemplates a comeback.

Reporters ask him his opinion on anything ranging from social affairs and the state of the economy to which candidate is best poised to win Argentina's 1999 presidential

On Tuesday, he made a television interviewer wait 45 minutes before strutting into the studio, wiping his brow with a handkerchief and tossing it at

#### Alessandro out of action

ROME, Apr 2: Lazio's Italian international Alessandro Nesta will be out for six weeks after suffering a leg injury in a World Cup qualifier at the weekend. the club physician said on

Tuesday, reports Reuter. Claudio Bartolini, the Rome side's doctor, said the defender had pulled muscles in his right thigh in the game against Moldova on Saturday. He needed 15 days complete rest and would not be fully match fit until mid-May.

#### BAF needs more money

LONDON. Apr 2: The British Athletic Federation (BAF) has asked for an annual sum of up to five million pounds sterling (8.3 million dollars) from the national lottery,

reports Reuter. British chief coach Malcolm Arnold said on Tuesday the federation had presented a submission to the sports council.

."We are talking about four to five million a year," he said. If successful, the BAF will institute a development plan which will increase the number of professional coaches from 10 to 34.

KUALA LUMPUR.

Apr 2: Ali Daei.

the world's top in-

ternational goa-

Iscorer of 1996, is

favourite to scoop

the Asian player-of-the-year

award to be presented by FIFA

president Joao Havelange here

several European clubs, leads a

short list of five players drawn

up by the Asian Football Con-

federation (AFC), all of whom

played prominent roles at the

Asian Cup in the United Arab

top scorer at the finals with

tournament, in which Iran fin-

ished third, and with 23 inter-

national goals during 1996.

Daei was the world's top inter-

Azizi also features on the

shortlist, with South Korea's Ko

Jeong Woon and Saudi Arabian

pair Mohammad Al-Daeyea

Daei's goals and his vision and

ability earned him the most

valuable player award at the

Asian Cup. It also makes him a

strong contender to take the

Asian player-of-the-year award

won fast year by Japan's

shine at the Asian Cup but had a

remarkable season with his

Gould clears

the air

tional soccer manager Bobby

Gould apologised on Tuesday

for comments made to disgrun-

tled Nathan Blake - but denied

he was a racist, reports Reuter.

earlier on Tuesday that he had

refused to play in Wales' World

Cup qualifier against Belgium

on Saturday because of com-

ments made by Gould last week

in training and after Wales'

match against the Netherlands

Speaking on BBC Radio 5.

"The situation was that I was

Gould denied that he had been

racist but apologised for "any misunderstanding."

selecting teams for a five-a-

side." said Gould. "I told some

players to put on yellow bibs,

some to put on green and said

Nathan, you stay with the

blacks," those with black

never in my life have I been

taken to task over racism."

"For that I apologise but

on Apr 1

last November.

sweaters on.

Bolton striker Blake said

LONDON, Apr 2: Wales na-

Korean striker Ko did not

Azizi was behind many of

and Yousef al Thuniyan.

Masami Thara.

club Ilhwa Chunma.

Another Iranian Khodadad

The 28-year-old Daei was the

He scored 20 goals in the

The Iranian, now a target for

Thursday, reports AFP.

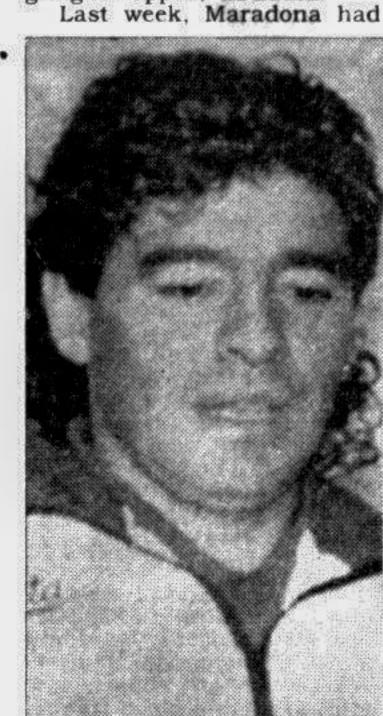
Emirates last December.

eight goals in six games.

national goalscorer.

dozens of onlooker: "It's time to put an end to this. I'm not signing for Boca," he snapped.

"I was prepared to give them (Boca) until next season to change their jersey, but it's not going to happen," he added.



DIEGO MARADONA

foreign players for their

semifinal, second leg matches

rely on one of Europe's

strongest squads to defend a 4-0

lead over Second Division Las

Palmas, Betis will field an im-

provised team for a tough tie at

going down to what they believe

was an unsporting goal in the

was scored by Nenad Bielica af-

ter the Betis midfielder failed to

return possession from a

throw-in after the Celta defend-

ers had put the ball into touch

so that an injured teammate

interrupted by a string of stop-

pages for injuries and cramp,

all of them suffered by Celta

men, and the Betis players were

quick to put the blame on the

shout, they (the crowd) are not

going to score goals," said Betis

For Celta, losing cup final-

ists to Zaragoza in 1994.

Daei leading all the way

the Afro-Asian Club Champi-

onship and the Asian Super Cup

before securing a move to

Cerezo Osaka in the Japanese J

mad Al-Daeyea was named best

defender at the Asian Cup, after

his saves secured victory in

penalty shoot outs in the semi-

final against Iran and the final

tained the Saudis to their

record equalling third Asian

Cup win. Despite the ill health

of his daughter. Thuniyan also

led his Al-Hilal side to victory

over Nagoya Grampus Eight of

Japan in the Asian Cup Win-

given at the dinner to be at-

tended by the FIFA boss Have-

lange and secretary general

Several other awards will be

Yousef al Thuniyan cap-

against the UAE hosts.

Saudi goalkeeper Moham-

League.

ners' Cup.

Sepp Blatter.

He led them to victories in

"However much their fans

incident on their opponents.

defender Juan Merino.

The game had already been

Celta are still smarting over

The only goal of the match

But whereas Barcelona can

this week, reports Reuter.

Celta Vigo.

first leg.

could be treated.

MADRID, Apr 2:

Spanish Cup favo-

urites Barcelona

and Real Betis

will be without a

of top

#### S Africa 245 for eight

Sports Reporter

A willy Jonty Rhodes smashed an unbeaten 83 off 76 balls to help South Africa to a commanding total of 245 for eight in their third of the sevenmatch one-day series against Australia at Newlands, according to Star Sports monitored here last night.

In the day-night affair, Australia. in reply, were struggling at 25 for three in the eighth over with Rudy Bryson claiming two wickets in successive deliveries.

#### Portuguese refs fall from

grace GENEVA, Apr 2: FIFA has suspended Portuguese referees from international matches until the country's referees' association and soccer federation resolve a dispute, reports

Reuter. "The dispute between the two associations has led to a situation where FIFA decided to suspend the referees from international duty," FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said on Tues-

drug test at the 1994 World Cup | day. "As soon as the dispute is settled the situation will be re-

> viewed." The swearing-in of the seven-strong referees' council of the Portuguese Soccer Federation in March was suspended against its wishes after the referees' association lodged a complaint in a civil court over an appointment.

> The referees' association said in the complaint that Avelino Ferreira Torres was not eligible for a seat on the council because he did not have

> a "clean record." Ferreira Torres was suspended from administrative duties for six months in 1990 for allegedly making unethical remarks in a press interview.

Both national associations are holding talks to resolve the

Herren said the immediate impact of the FIFA ruling was that Portuguese referee Jorge Monteiro Corado would not take charge of the World Cup qualifier between Lithuania and Romania in Vilnius on Wednesday.

He has been replaced by German Edgar Steinborn.

### Young.... miles to go!

PERTH, Australia, Apr 2: Ultra-marathon runner Cliff Young is on target to break the round-Australia record - at the age of 75 — but he still has more than 11,000 kilometres (6,820 miles) to go, reports AFP.

Heading in a westerly direction, he passed through the 2,000 km (1,240 miles) mark Wednesday as he approached the little Western Australian mining town of Coolgardis. 644 km east of Perth.

Young, a Victorian potato farmer, began his 13,383 km (8,300 mile) journey in Melbourne on February 28, and has

averaged about 66 km a day. He is aiming to beat the record established in 1983 by Australian Ron Grant, who ran his way into the Guinness Book of Records by covering the distance in 217 days, three hours,

45 minutes. Young has calculated he will wear out about 30 pairs of running shoes during his slog.

A vegetarian he has six meals a day to maintain a high energy level Young says that even if he

does not beat Grant's time, he

will set a record as long as he

finishes. He will be the oldest

runner to complete the course.

Tapia feels great ALBUQUERQUE, Apr 2:

against Nicaraguan Adonis Cruz (25-2-1, 13 KOs), the Caribbean Boxing Federation champion at 115 pounds (52 kilograms). Life, says Tapia, never has

been better inside or out of the Cruz expressed the usual prefight confidence that he can

take the title away from Tapia. "I know I have the intellience and boxing skills to beat lapia." he said. Tapia has been working with a new trainer, Dub Huntley, to improve his balance and power.

"Sometimes you get caught off-balance," Tapia said. "When you do that, you don't hit as hard. I hit harder now." Tapia recently signed a new contract with Top Rank that guarantees him a minimum of 100,000 dollars per fight. He said he has paid off a debt he

had with the Internal Revenue

Service and now owns homes in

Big Bear, California, and Albuquerque. Tapia also has served nearly one year of the 18 months' supervised probation he received last January for assaulting his wife, Teresa, in 1995. He pleaded guilty in October 1995 to charges of assaulting her during a domestic dispute at the

Tapia, who has held the WBO title since defeating Henry Martinez of San Francisco in October 1994, also was banned from the sport for 3 1/2 years because of cocaine problems that surfaced in 1990.

couple's Albuquerque residence.

# Hingis starts in style

ISLAND, South Carolina, Apr 2: Martina Hingis played her first match as the number one player in the world on Tuesday and breezed into the third round of the Family

reports Reuter. The 16-year-old Swiss, who took over the top ranking from Steffi Graf on Monday, scored a 6-0, 6-4 victory over Barbara Rittner of Germany to run her 1997 match record to a perfect

Circle Cup tennis tournament,

The top-seeded Hingis, who received a first-round bye at the

season's first clay court event, admitted to being a bit overwhelmed by her pre-match introduction.

"It was strange," Hingis said. "The first time they said these two words 'number one' . . . I almost couldn't believe it was

true." Earlier Tuesday, fourth seed Monica Seles, who lost the Lipton final to Hingis Saturday and the record as the youngest player ever to be ranked No 1. shook the rust off her clay court game to record a swift secondround victory over Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan.

After a bit of a tentative



MARTINA HINGIS

in 57 minutes.

"It was the first time I got to play some points on clay and I was pretty rusty starting off," said Seles, who is playing just

> there, so it was a good comfortable second round match," the fifth-ranked Seles said. Hingis, already looking for her sixth title of the year, had to rally from 0-7 down in the second set after sailing through the first. But the Australian Open champion did not attribute the

her second tournament of the

"We had some nice rallies in

closer second set to her opponent's play. "I just played so well and I made everything right in the first set and I lost my concentration in the second because I got so bored out there," she ad-

mitted. Seles was pleased with her progress after having her start to the season delayed while recuperating from a broken figure

she suffered in December. "I feel like I'm playing well comparing how many weeks I've played," Seles said. "But there's still a lot of work ahead of me if I want to be ready for the French Open and Wimble-

In other second-round action, fifth seed and two-time champion Conchita Martinez of Spain struggled past Olga Barabanschikova of Belarus 6-7 (3-7), 6-4, 6-3, and eighth seed Irina Spirlea of Romania disposed of Spain's Christina Tor-

rens-Valero 7-6 (7-4), 6-4. In a first-round encounter. Jennifer Capriati upended number 11 Mary Joe-Fernandez 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7-3) in an all-American affair, and number 12 Barbara Paulus of Austria, a one-time Lipton semifinalist, stormed past compatriot San-

dra Dopfrer 6-0, 6-2. The tournament features nine of the top-0 ranked players with only injured Graf missed from the ranks of the elite.

Defending champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain is seeded second, followed by Lipton-semifinalist Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic. Seles. Lindsay Davenport of the United States, Germany's Anke Huber and Spirlea.

### Parke sent tumbling



Simon Parke, the world number four from England who finished third in the Super Series finals on Saturday, was

CARDIFF, Apr 2:

the most surprising of three men's seeds who went out in the first round of the British Open there on Tuesday, reports AFP. Parke was beaten in straight

games by Dan Jenson, the world number 18 from Australia. whose career-best win was so well deserved that it suggested other well-known names may soon fall before his all-round

The score was 15-7, 15-10, 15-13, and Jenson led from start to finish in all three games. He played straight and steadily but rarely negatively and used his long reach to especially good effect on the volley.

covering the court, needed to win the second game to stay in contention. But from 8-10 and 9-11 it began to slip away from The wrong-footing backhand, flicked across court for a winner, which got Jenson to 14-

Parke, who did not play

badly but spent more of the time

10 was a vital shot. Parke fought hard and made a late flurry to save three match points in the third game but it only briefly looked capable of altering the direction of the

"It was the first time I had beaten him and it is the most pleasing win I have had," said Jenson, who next meets another Englishman. Del Harris, the

former World Open finalist. In the same quarter the former British champion Stephen Meads unexpectedly survived when he led the tenth-seeded Zubair Jahan by two games and then saw the Pakistani retire with a leg injury.

Another former British champion Paul Gregory, now the Greek number one and seeded 15th, was beaten in straight games by the Australian qualifier Joseph

Kneipp, who earned the match of his life. He next meets the five times champion Jansher Khan, who looks more than ever likely to make it six after winning 15-7.

15-6, 15-9 against Derek Ryan

of Ireland

Jansher was full of econom ical movement and brilliantlytimed attacks and it was hard to believe that two weeks ago in the British league the Irishman had beaten the great Pakistani. The other title holder

Michelle Martin, the second-

seeded Australian, was too strong for the 20-year-old world junior champion from New Zealand, Jade Wilson, getting completely on top in the second half of the contest in a 9-7, 9-0, 9-1 win.

#### Rusedski sidelined

LONDON, Apr 2: Britains' number two tennis player. Greg Rusedski, pulled out on Tuesday from the team to face Zimbabwe in this weekend's Davis Cup match in London because of a

wrist injury, reports Reuter. Number one, Tim Henman, had earlier withdrawn after undergoing surgery on his el-

None of Britain's replacements is in the class of Zim-

babwe's Bayron Black who is

ranked 46th.

### Albright takes

time-out

tary of State Madeleine Al-

bright has a "wicked slider" up

her sleeve as she prepares to

throw the first pitch of the US

WASHINGTON, Apr 2: Secre-

baseball season, the State Department said Tuesday, reports The opening match at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Maryland, was postponed a day due to high winds but Albright rescheduled a meeting with Argentina's Foreign Minister

Guido di Tella to attend today. "She's been working on her slider, it's a wicked slider, and she had hoped to unveil it today at Camden Yards," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

President Bill Clinton usually throws out the first pitch but had to bow out this year because of his injured knee.

# Drugs on IAAF's agenda

away: drugs, reports AP.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation must deal with a series of controversial doping cases, starting with an arbitration hearing this weekend into Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco's disputed

positive steroid test

Next week, the IAAF considers whether to take action against several Greek athletes including the new 60-metre world indoor champion Haralambros Papadias — for allegedly evading a drug test. Also under the microscope is

3.000-metre world recordholder who allegedly tested positive for excessive levels of caffeine. All these issues come at a time when the IAAF finds itself powerless to enforce its fouryear drug penalty because

Kenya's Daniel Komen, the

to accept lengthy bans. The first case comes up Saturday when Capobianco goes before a three-member arbitration panel in Monte Carlo, Monaco, to try to clear his name of drug charges. The Australian runner

courts in many countries refuse

tested positive for the steroid stanozolol — the same drug which got Ben Johnson kicked out of the 1998 Seoul Olympics - at a meet in Hengelo, Netherlands, last May 27.

Shortly before the Atlanta Olympics, an Australian tribunal cleared Capobianco on grounds that the chain of custody of his urine sample could

postponed twice. In addition to the chain of custody issue. Capobianco has raised the possibility that his positive test could have resulted from eating contaminated beef.

If found guilty by the IAAF panel, Capobianco would face an automatic four-year suspension. He has indicated he would fight any ban in civil court. Next week, the IAAF Council

— the federation's powerful rule-making body — meets in Turin, Italy, on the eve of the World Cross Country Championships. The council is expected to re-

ceive a report from the IAAF doping commission, headed by Sweden's Arne Ljungqvist, on the case of the Greek athletes who escaped a surprise, out-ofcompetition drug control early last month. A German doping control of-

ficer. Klaus Wengoborski, approached a group of Greek athletes at a training hall in Dortmund. The athletes' coach, Christos Tzekos, allegedly manhandled Wengoborski while three athletes fled. One of the runners has been

identified as Papadias, the surprise winner of the 60-metre sprint at last weekend's World Indoors in Paris. The others were identified as European 60metre champion Ekaterini Thanou and 200-metre runner Georgios Panagiotopoulos. The Greeks contend that

Wengoborski did not properly identify himself, so they were not out of line in refusing to un-

dergo testing. But Wengoborski said he never had a chance to identify himself, that the athletes fled as soon as he told them he was a doping control While Wengboroski is push-

against the athletes, the IAAF has said it is the coach who should be punished. "It's difficult for the athletes to be banned," IAAF spokesman Giorgio Reineri said Friday. "Not one of the athletes person-

ally refused the doping test. The

problem was between the coach

and Wengoborski. For us, the names of the athletes who were there is not important. Another sensitive case involves Komen, the sensational Kenyan runner who smashed world records last year at 3,000 metres and two miles.

It was recently revealed that Komen tested positive twice, in July and September, for high caffeine levels. The accepted maximum level is 12 micrograms per millileter; Komen's first test showed 16, and the second 13. Caffeine is considered a

stimulant, and a positive test can result in a three-month But the IAAF has opened fur-

ther investigation to determine whether the positive levels were due to Komen's metabolism. Officials say it is possible he has trouble eliminating caffeine from his system. The German federation cut

the ban in half because German courts say a four-year suspension is excessive and infringes on the right of an individual to earn a living. The same situation has applied in France, Russia, Spain, Romania, Bulgaria, Austria and other countries.

#### bantamweight champion Johnny Tapia says he has rid nimself of the personal demons that so often have invaded his LONDON. Apr 2: have been broken between the unblemished boxing career, revenue and the testing labora-Less than a week ports AP. tory in Cologne, Germany. after the World Tapia (38-0-2, 23 KOs) in the While allowing Capobianco Indoor Champiopast has battled cocaine, alcoto run in Atlanta, the IAAF renships, track and hol and a domestic abuse fused to accept the finding and officer. field's governing charge. He makes his ninth title sent the case to its arbitration body is turning its attention to ing for the IAAF to take action defence here on Saturday panel. The hearing has been the one issue that never goes

New WBO junior