

Sport

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# Jackie waves her final goodbye



EDWARDSVILLE, Illinois, July 26 (AFP): Jackie Joyner Kersee's Olympic triumphs, world titles and world records have made her famous around the globe. On Saturday, she came home.

Joyner Kersee, 36, bowed out of athletics competition with a long jump at the US Open IAAF Grand Prix meeting here, an event she was responsible for bringing to the area near her beloved hometown of East St. Louis.

She finished sixth in the long jump, a mere formality to the 9,100 fans who packed into the stadium at Southern Illinois university to see her.

Most of them seemed to end up in the infield as the ceremonies honouring Joyner Kersee evolved into something like a backyard birthday party, with hugs and tears, laughter and a pile of presents that took the athlete by surprise.

"I wasn't expecting any of this, to tell the truth," said Joyner Kersee, who alternately beamed and fought back tears. "I realize I've been really blessed."

Joyner Kersee said it was hard to concentrate early in the long jump competition, as fans waved signs saying "JK we love you" and asked her husband and coach Bob Kersee for autographs.

"Even though I was stumbling back and forth, they didn't seem to care," said Joyner Kersee, who finished with a leap of 6.39m.

"I'm not happy with 20 feet nine, but that's the best I could do today," she said. "That's part of it."

Eighteen years after her first Olympic trials and after six Olympic medals, Joyner Kersee now turns to her sports marketing firm, her extensive charity work, work with the St. Louis Sports Marketing Commission and, maybe, parenthood.

Joyner Kersee won her last heptathlon at the Goodwill Games in New York on Wednesday.

The demanding, seven-discipline event, the women's equivalent of the decathlon, de-

lined her greatness, showcased her versatility and grit and made the case for her right to be called the best woman athlete of her generation.

Joyner Kersee's world record of 7,291 points has stood for 10 years. Of the seven 7,000-plus performances record, the top six belong to Joyner Kersee.

"I equate her to Michael Jordan," said Cindy Greiner, a three-time Olympian who competed against Joyner Kersee from 1981-92. "They're the ones that when you think you can play up to their level, you fall apart. In competition for a decade, you couldn't touch Jackie."

Joyner Kersee was the first woman to win consecutive Olympic heptathlon gold medals, in 1988 and 1992. She had won silver in the event in 1984 and won long jump gold in 1988, and bronze in 1992 and 1996.

Reflecting on those accomplishments Saturday, Joyner Kersee was typically self-effacing.

"I do feel good about what I've accomplished," she said. "The most important thing, for me as a multi-event athlete, was to bring attention back to the heptathlon."

Now she has many missions, to re-focus attention on the sport of athletics in the United States, to act as a spokesman for people like herself who suffer from asthma and to give back to the hardworking community that gave her to the world.

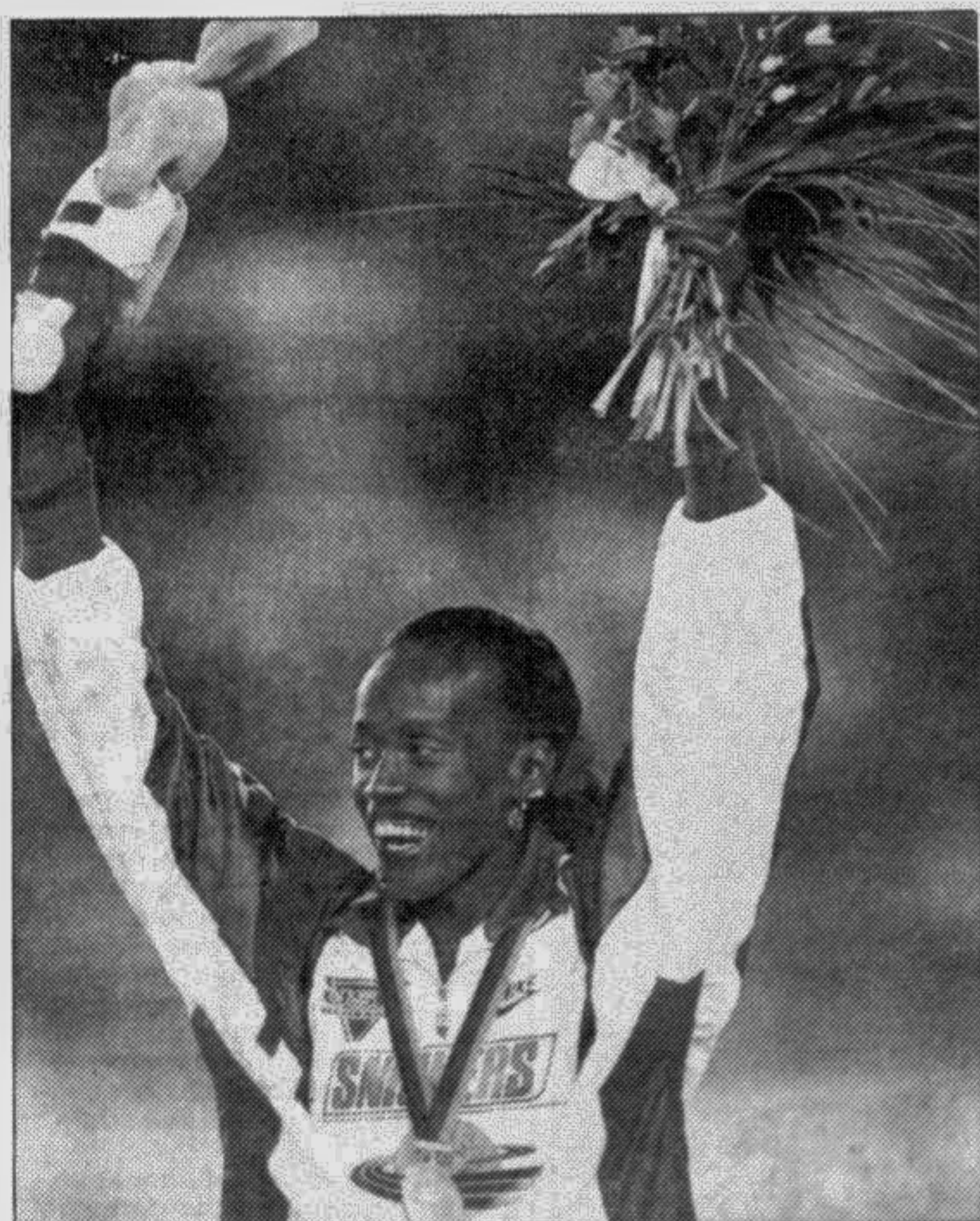
In the hour-long post-meet ceremony she was treated to a parade of old friends offering gifts, thanks, and words of encouragement for the future.

They included Carol Lewis, sister of now retired athletics legend Carol Lewis who presented a cheque for 5,000 dollars from herself and her brother to Joyner Kersee's charitable foundation.

They also included her old Lincoln High School coach Nino Fennoy and the girls of the Lincoln track team.

The team, clad in their distinctive orange colours, ran a lap of honour with Joyner Kersee to close the show.

"It's always great," Joyner Kersee said of her contract with



## FACTFILE

**Born:** Jacqueline Joyner, March 3, 1962, East St. Louis. Sister of 1984 Olympic triple jump champion Al Joyner, sister-in-law of sprinter Florence Griffith-Joyner.

**Educated:** University of California at Los Angeles, which she attended on a basketball scholarship.

**Olympic medals:** Three gold (Heptathlon 1988 and 92, long jump 1988) one silver (Heptathlon 1984), two bronze (long jump 1992 and 1996).

**World championships:** Four gold (Heptathlon 1987 and 1993, long jump 1987 and 1991).

## CHRONOLOGY

**1983:** Represented United States at World Championships in Helsinki.

**1984:** Won heptathlon silver at Los Angeles Olympics.

**1986:** Married coach Bob Kersee, gave up basketball to concentrate on heptathlon and set two world records within one month, became first woman to break 7,000 points in the seven-discipline event, won the first of two consecutive Jesse Owens awards and the Sullivan award from the US Olympic Committee.

**1987:** Won heptathlon and long jump gold medals at World Championships in Rome.

**1988:** Improved her own world record in heptathlon with a total of 7,291 points at Seoul Olympics, won long jump gold in Seoul.

**1991:** Won long jump gold at World Championships in Tokyo.

**1992:** Won Heptathlon gold at Barcelona Olympics, long jump bronze.

**1993:** Overcame illness to win heptathlon gold at World Championships in Stuttgart.

**1996:** Overcame injury to win long jump bronze at Atlanta Olympics.

**1998:** Won fourth straight Goodwill Games heptathlon title in New York.

the youngsters. "Every year was come back and put on a little relay meet here, all the girls always come."

"They volunteer... it takes so many people to put on a meet like this."

"That's the great thing about being a Lincoln tigerette, an East St. Louis girl. We are willing to do whatever we have to do to make an event a success."

## MLS roundup

# Raiders ride on Harris

TAMPA, Florida, July 26: Wolde Harris scored on a header from point-blank range with six minutes left as the Colorado Rapids snapped a seven-game road losing streak with a 3-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Mutiny on Saturday night, reports AP.

Harris redirected Adrian Paz's cross past goalkeeper Doug Petras to hand Tampa Bay (6-16) their fifth consecutive home loss.

Tampa Bay's Alan Prampin ran his point-scoring streak to a club-record seven games with a 63rd-minute goal that tied the match 2-2. That came just seven minutes after Paul Bravo's eighth goal of the year put Colorado in front.

The Rapids opened the scoring in the 31st minute on Marcelo Balboa's goal. Tampa Bay defender Chris Houser tied it six minutes later with his first MLS goal.

**MetroStars 3, Fire 2:** In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Miles Joseph scored one goal and assisted on one to spark the New York-New Jersey MetroStars to a 3-2 victory over the Chicago Fire in Major League Soccer.

The MetroStars (11-9) have won four of five. The expansion Fire (13-8) have lost three straight.

In the sixth minute, Eduardo Hurtado volleyed in a crossing header from Marcelo Vega.

Chicago tied it in the 19th minute, when a free kick by Lubos Kubik caromed off the defensive wall and dribbled into the left corner of the goal.

The MetroStars took the lead for good in the 25th minute. Chicago defender Francis Okaroh attempted a clearing header, but Joseph got a foot on the ball and rolled a shot just inside the right post.

In the 45th minute, Joseph crossed the ball to Brian Kelly, who charged hard from the right to knock in his fifth goal of the season.

Roman Kosecki added Chicago's final goal in the 85th minute.

**Burn 2, Crew 1:** In Columbus, Ohio, Jorge Rodriguez scored in the 85th minute to give the Dallas Burn a 2-1 victory over the Columbus Crew.

Dallas (10-11) snapped a four-game losing streak, with Rodriguez scoring the winning goal off Ted Eck's pass following a corner kick.

The Burn opened the scoring in the 10th minute on Mickey Trotman's unassisted goal, and the Crew (9-10) tied it in the 41st minute on Todd Yeagley's goal. A crowd of 15,628 attended the game at Ohio Stadium.

**United 1, Galaxy 0:** In Pasadena, California, Los Angeles defender Robin Fraser deflected Marco Etcheverry's cross into the net for an own goal in the 44th minute as DC United beat the Galaxy 1-0.

United goalkeeper Scott Garlick made five saves for his sixth shutout.

United midfielder Mario Gori was ejected in the 16th minute when he received his second yellow card, and Galaxy forward Welton was sent off in the 57th after elbowing DC defender Carey Talley in the head.

United has won five straight to improve to 18-5. Los Angeles is 16-5.

The matchup of conference leaders drew an announced crowd of 26,873 to the Rose Bowl.

**Clash 2, Wizards 1:** In San Jose, California, San Jose's David Kramer made three consecutive saves in a shootout to give the Clash a 2-1 victory over the Kansas City Wizards.

San Jose's Eric Wynalda, Eddie Lewis and Victor Mella scored on their shootout attempts, while Kramer stopped attempts by Mark Chung, Preki Radosavljevic and Mo Johnston.

Wynalda gave the Clash (7-13) a 1-0 lead in the 42nd minute, and Johnston tied it three minutes later on a free kick. The Wizards are 9-11.



Fan Yunjie (No 3) of China under pressure from Norway's Ragnhild Gulbrandsen (C) during the Goodwill Games semifinal at Uniondale on July 25. China won on penalties— AFP photo

## SPORTS TALK



### Jeffrey Dujon

(Former West Indies, wicket-keeper)

"We loved the game. We took pride in the fact that we were representing our nation. One of the eleven people in a match and one of nine million people to be chosen. The game is now obviously more commercial and I think a number of players have been caught up in that."

**On the difference between cricket during his time and at present.**

### Maruf & Arif lift doubles crown

Maruf and Arif pair of Bholu emerged champions in the boys doubles under-18 group of the national junior and sub-junior badminton championship which concluded yesterday at the NSC wooden-floor gymnasium, reports UNB.

They beat Javed and Nikhil of Bangladesh Ansars 11-15, 18-13, 15-6 in the final.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader was the chief guest in the day's closing function and later distributed the prizes.

Earlier on Saturday, Javed of Ansars clinched the boys singles under-18 title defeating Maruf Alam of Bholu 6-15, 15-2, 15-6.

## SIX NO TRUMPS

### A K Sayeedul Huq

#### EAST'S DOUBLE RAISE IN CLUBS SHOWED GAME VALUES (Hand #51)

|              |            |             |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| West         | North      | East        |
| ♠: A X       | ♠: J X X X | ♠: J 10 X X |
| ♥: X         | ♥: Q X X X | ♥: A X X    |
| ♦: K Q X X X | ♦: C J X   | ♦: A X      |
| ♣: A K X X X | ♣: C J X   | ♣: Q X X X  |

**BIDDING**

|               |                 |               |               |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| South (Mizan) | West (Mazumdar) | North (Zaglu) | East (Sayeed) |
| 1H            | Double          | Pass          | 15*           |
| Pass          | 2H              | Pass          | 4C            |
| Pass          | 5C              | Pass          | Pass          |

\* Showed 0-6 HCP

In response to West's double East decided to show HCP in the range of 0-6 though he held 7 HCP as he had a flat hand. However, when West cue-bid in Hearts East jumped to 4 Clubs, basically to indicate that he was holding maximum HCP in that range. It suited West who booked game in Clubs. Note that if East passively bid 3 Clubs, it would have been difficult for West to go game. Similarly, West's cue-bid was indicative of a very strong, game-going hand.

#### THE PLAY

South opened the King of Hearts and then shifted to the King of Spades. The contract was easy as the cards were distributed. Five Clubs were reached and made via two fine biddings by West and East.

## Back to the J-League

TOKYO, July 26: Japan's professional J-League soccer sprung back into action on Saturday after a two-month hiatus for the World Cup, reports Reuters.

Verdy Kawasaki, which stood atop the standings before the break suffered a humiliating 3-1 defeat to Kashiwa Reysol. The loss put Verdy, the gray beards of J-League, in a five-way tie for the top spot.

Verdy's fading star Kazuyoshi Miura sought some redemption after being dumped from the Japan's national team prior to the World Cup, but Miura provided title punch in the loss.

Defending champion Jubilo Iwata showed that it had not ac-

## Gordon Greenidge-III

From page 13

pen. It's not going to matter if you send players regularly abroad, if you do not create a better structure for cricket locally. Then you will not be able to handle it internationally because they do not know how to adapt to it. But once you have the chance to play locally, there is always a better chance that they can represent themselves outside. That is the direction that we have to go in. But too much talk and no work. A totally disrupted and destructive force behind the scenes who are just looking for self-importance and not promoting cricket for the betterment of the country.

DS: There is a general view that if you had been without Gazi Ashraf the players would have been more motivated.

GG: I don't think so. I find Lipu (manager Gazi Ashraf) to be a very capable person and one hundred percent Bangladeshi. I have seen water from his eyes when he knew the players should have done better. I have noticed the expression on his face (after a debacle) that tells me he had internal grief and abundance of stress inside for that he did not want to let out. Because I feel if he lets out something serious is going to happen. And I think it very sad to level criticism at the person without finding out what is happening. To me he is solely for Bangladesh cricket and he wants Bangladesh cricket to do well. You do not know the temper that he throws at the players. He has every reason to be angry because he knows if he lets it out people in Bangladesh will not be pleased. I don't know whether there are any discontent between Lipu and the senior players in the team. If that is true I think that is a personal matter and I'm not interested to make any comment in this regard. But let me say something which I have not disclosed before. I'm ... congratulating the success of the Bangladesh team in the ICC (in Malaysia). I have also had ... since I have not done well after ICC. I'm aware of this situation since I have only one success. ... threatening

calls for I'm not doing a good job for Bangladesh cricket. I have had threatening calls but I don't tell people these things because I dismissed these. These people do not know or they do not understand. Yes, I would like to give them success all the time but this is not always possible. But they do not understand and I just put that down to sheer ignorance. The difficulties about this is that I have tried to make the situation as comfortable as possible. I'm not to be pressured. If pressure has to come it should be in the development of the sport you are training for. But you get people calling you on numbers that are supposed to be private numbers, this could be very damaging at times. But I do not let this worry me. I still go on and do my job. I don't broadcast it to every body because I just brush this off as just some person who is displeased about the lack of success of the team. I'm also displeased. But if that's what he feels that is his problem. But for Lipu it is different. He lives here. He has to be careful of what he does. I think he takes great care, perhaps more care than others, for what he says and what he does simply because he does not know what sort of repercussion there may have. I have no reservation accrediting Lipu for the job he does because this person is very much ... for the job that he is doing and feels extremely hurt after every failure. But he still wants to do the job because he feels he can make a difference. Now, how many people can you say this about that have any cricket knowledge in the Board? How many people in the Board who are not cricketers can say that they are one hundred percent for Bangladesh cricket? I don't think there's many. I think there are probably more cricketers who have represented Bangladesh that are not part of the Board who can do a much better job. Lipu has helped me in some way in trying to establish communication with the players. But that has been difficult because I have said the players themselves were not honest in the UK.

## Sang has surgery

UNIONDALE, New York, July 26: Sang Lan, the Chinese gymnast paralysed after an horrific landing of a vault at the Goodwill Games, underwent surgery Saturday to fuse two fractured and dislocated vertebrae in her neck, a hospital spokeswoman said, reports Reuters.

The seven-hour operation, intended to stabilise Sang's spine and aimed at enabling her to sit up, was deemed a success, said Nassau county medical centre spokeswoman Shelley Lotenberg.

Consent for the operation was given by Chinese delegation officials at the Goodwill Games. The surgical team is expected to reveal details of the surgery at a news conference today.

The 17-year-old native of Ningbo, China, was hurt Goodwill Games event at Nassau coliseum. She has no movement in her legs, no feeling from her mid-chest down, and minimal use of her arms.

Since Thursday, Sang has been treated with sygen, an experimental drug that might help the body repair nerve damage. The intravenous treatment is expected to last some two months.

## Modahl still the best

BIRMINGHAM, July 26: Diane Modahl, the 1990 Commonwealth 800 metres gold medalist who has spent the past four years clearing her name, ensured on Saturday she would return to the Games in September, reports Reuters.

At the Amateur Athletic Association Championships, serving as a dual trials for next months European Championships in Budapest and for the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Modahl secured her sixth national title by holding off a challenge from Tanya Blake to win in two minutes 0.27 seconds.

Modahl's lawyers are still locked in negotiations with the administrators of the bankrupt British Athletic Federation for nearly one million pounds (1.6 million dollars) in compensation following her 1994 ordeal.

Then, Modahl travelled out to Canada to defend her Commonwealth title, and on the morning of her heat was told that she had failed a drugs test at a minor meeting in Portugal earlier that year.

Her urine sample had shown levels of testosterone greater than that discovered when Ben Johnson tested positive.

Modahl maintained her innocence throughout a lengthy appeals procedure, and was finally cleared in time to run at the Atlanta Olympics.

But the psychological scars are still with her. "The only way to put an end to this sorry tale will be for BAF to admit their fault in this case and pay us compensation," Modahl, 32, said.

## Political interruption

NEW YORK, July 26(AP): Exile groups protesting the militant Islamic government in Tehran interrupted Saturday night's Goodwill Games wrestling match between the United States and Iran.

After Behnam Taiebi scored a 5-0 shutout against American Sam Henson, Tony Purler of the United States entered the ring for his bout against Mohammad Talea. But Talea did not appear and the Iranians refused to wrestle because of protesting fans in the stands.

After 20 minutes, Talea entered the ring waving an Iranian flag and the match went on.

Hundreds of Iranian fans were wearing T-shirts bearing the name and picture of Maryam Rajavi, head of the National Council of Resistance in Iran, and appeared to be the centre of the dispute.

When the match resumed, a dozen security guards flooded the area where the protest was centered, and large banners bearing the portrait of Rajavi appeared to have been removed.

At least eight fans with either Rajavi T-shirts or banners were taken from the hall by city police or Garden Security.

"A group of fans was protesting politically in the stands. The Iranian team leader took offense and left with his team," said Larry Sciacchitano, president of USA Wrestling. "What they asked us to do was to clear the protesters from the arena. We had a hard time convincing them that this is a free society."

"We're not about to tell people what they can say or what they can't say. We've explained that to the Iranians. Certainly, we want to continue our good relations. It's terrible when politics have to interfere with sports. This isn't the place for it."

He said officials had asked the protesters to keep their signs down, "because they distract the view of other people that have paid to watch these matches. I think we have that right."

John Smith, coach of the American team, said something was said to one of the Iranian wrestlers on the floor that triggered the protest.

"They disagree with the politics going on in Iran," he said. "This is not the place. This is a sporting event. It should be about sports."

Last month in Lyon, France, there were similar protests during the US-Iran World Cup match, with exile groups wearing T-shirts with the pictures of their leader. FIFA rules barred any political banners or signs from the stadiums. Some fans were ejected by guards when they waved banners. There was no violence and no arrests.

Tens of thousands of Iranians left after the 1979 Islamic revolution overthrew the US supported shah and installed a strict religious government. Many, who are still opposed to the government, have never returned even for a visit.

The largest of the organized exile groups is the Mujahedeen

Khalq, whose leader is Masoud Rajavi, Maryam's husband and the exile group's president.

Many in the capacity crowd at the Garden waved small green-white-and-red Iranian flags. American fans favoured a raucous "USA-USA-USA" chant.

As they were introduced, the wrestlers shook hands, with the Americans handing the Iranians small coins. It was as if old friends were greeting each other in fact, these wrestlers know each other from previous international meets, most recently the World Cup in April in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

A block away from the Garden, Moslem E. Filabi sat in a hotel lobby, unable to watch the team of the country he once represented and afraid of the stir his presence in the arena might create.

For 10 years, from 1966-76, Filabi wrestled on the Iranian national team. He appeared in three Olympics for Iran, won 17 gold, silver and bronze medals in international competitions and was honored as a national hero. He left Iran in 1982, three years after the revolution.

"Getting out was not a problem," he said. "Inside was a problem."

Filabi believes that remains the case, that his homeland is being pillaged by the current regime and that the wrestling team is being used in an effort to repair his nation's image.

"Once, Iran was a rich country," he said. "Now it is a poor country."

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**

1 Cheron's craft  
 6 "Friends" cast member  
 11 Environment  
 12 Dormant  
 14 Open  
 15 Clergyman  
 16 It follows  
 17 "Happy Birthday"

**DOWN**

5 400  
 7 scene  
 8 Case  
 9 Where to fly down to  
 10 Squished sq.  
 11 Spt.  
 12 Freston's balliwick  
 13 He often rides piggyback  
 14 7 Jacob's brother  
 15 8 Literary monogram  
 16 36 Pea's place  
 17 37 Grumpy's colleague  
 18 38 Small drum  
 19 41 Kirk Douglas trademark  
 20 44 Symbol on Texas' flag  
 21 45 Container weight  
 22 48 Melody  
 23 50 Sun speech

**CRYPTOQUIP**

B J N L Q X B E S F E X  
 T B O I Z E W R X I N X B W N L R  
 E X " W F R X I W B Z X B L S  
 X J E Q R X T I Z R O R Z

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: THE WAGGISH POLICEMAN PREFERS CALLING HIS UNIFORM A LAW SUIT.  
 Today's Cryptiquip clue: O equals V

The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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