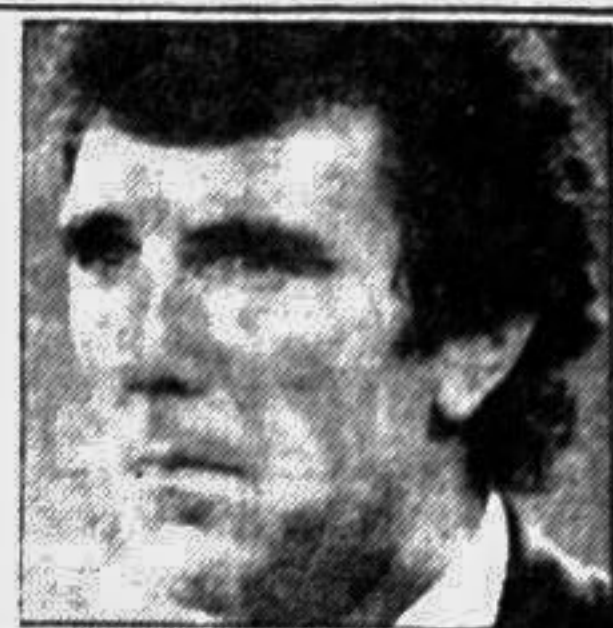


Zoff sworn in

ROME, July 29: Dino Zoff formally took over as Italian national coach here on Tuesday, five days after being appointed to succeed Cesare Maldini, reports AFP. Zoff, former goalkeeper and skipper of the 'Azzurri' will now bow out as president of Lazio on August 1 and immediately start preparing the Italian squad for the Euro 2000 qualifying campaign. "We will play an open, balanced style of football without worrying ourselves unduly about the characteristics of our opponents," Zoff pledged, implying a break with the ultra-cautious Maldini era which ended in a penalty shootout defeat in the World Cup quarterfinals against France. Zoff explained: "When I was coach of Lazio I deployed a classic zonal defence without a libero, but I will draw on what happens in the Serie A as the national side has to take into account what the First Division teams are going." Former AS Roma and Italy defender Francesco Rocca will serve as Zoff's assistant.



Stewart: A combination of Atherton and Cronje?



NOTTINGHAM, England, July 29 (Reuters/Internet): England skipper Alec Stewart is developing a style of captaincy that combines the best elements of his predecessor Mike Atherton and his South African opposite number Hansie Cronje, according to England coach David Lloyd.

Lloyd made it his duty to ask Stewart what he would like done differently when he took over from Atherton at the beginning of this season, and says the answer came as a relief.

"He said 'nothing', he told me he was happy with the set-up as Atherton had it," Lloyd said after England's eight-wicket win in the fourth test at Trent Bridge on Monday.

"Alec and Mike have always got along well, and they share similar views on the game. But that is not to say that Alec is not his own man. There are elements of Mike's leadership but he is also rapidly developing his own style," Lloyd said.

Rousing team talks are already said to have made a difference to the England team's performance and Stewart has made few, if any, tactical mistakes in the field in his first four tests as full time captain.

Indeed, his brave decision to put South Africa in to bat at Trent Bridge was criticised by most of the British media only for England to win against all odds.

It was the ninth time an England captain had asked South

African opposition to bat first but the first time a win had resulted since Lord Hawke's triumph at Newlands, Cape Town, in 1896.

"He's never been afraid to speak his mind or have the courage of his convictions. We all agreed that it was a bowing day last Thursday, but it was his decision and he would have taken it alone if he had to," Lloyd said.

While Stewart's confidence will undoubtedly have been boosted by Monday's win, he knows it will count for nothing if England don't match expectations in the fifth-test series decider at Headingley a week on Thursday.

"Headingley is what people will remember us for, Stewart said. If we win there then we will have something to be proud of. If we don't then Trent Bridge will just be another one-off."

PCB picks 14 for KL Games

KARACHI, July 29 (The Dawn/Internet): The three-member Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) selection committee on Tuesday finalised a 14-member team for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games to be played in Kuala Lumpur between September 11 and 21.

According to chairman of committee, Wasim Bari, the team selection was unanimous and has been delivered to the PCB for approval by its executive council.

As to the future, the England coach sees no problem with Stewart's age, 36, and ironically he believes that 28-year-old Cronje has set an example that Stewart will do well to follow.

"He has a strong, powerful leadership style. What he says goes, although he's always willing to listen. He really is a true captain, a natural leader, and I think Alec is rapidly becoming the same thing."

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Bari said the team was a blend of youth and experience. He, however, stated that no player from the Under-19 team was considered for selection as by the time the youth team returns from England, the Pakistan A team would have left for Kuala Lumpur.

"We have taken into account domestic performances, series against India A and Pakistan's tour of Africa and Malaysia," said the chief selector.

Giving the composition of the squad, Bari said the team had five batsmen (including two specialist openers), two all-rounders, four pacers, two spinners and a wicketkeeper.

The captain of the team is however yet to be disclosed. According to informed sources, Basil Ali has been retained in the team and if the executive council opts for continuity in captaincy, he might lead the team in the Commonwealth Games.

Wasim Bari said the Commonwealth Games team included players who have represented at the highest level. "There are players who have played Tests or one-day internationals."

He said no reserves have been picked as the cricket board chairman had instructed to select only 14 players. "It may be in the background of whatever happened with the selection of the Under-19 side," he remarked.

The chief selector said his committee has also selected a tentative 18-member team for the Sahara Cup "and whose ever has performed has been picked because for us everyone is available for selection."

He added that the four players playing in the English county championships have also been included in the 18-member tentative side along with two wicketkeepers, adding that only one of the two will go to Canada.



American Jennifer Thompson exults after winning the Goodwill Games 50-metre gold at Uniondale on July 28. Thompson clocked 25.77 sec. — AFP photo

Queiroz new UAE coach

DUBAI, July 29 (Reuters/Internet): Former Portuguese national team coach Carlos Manuel Queiroz has arrived in the United Arab Emirates to take up a two-year contract to run the national soccer team, local newspapers said on Wednesday.

"It was always my dream to coach a team here," said the 45-year-old on his arrival in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi.

The UAE failed to reach this month's World Cup in France, losing out to South Korea and Japan in its Asian qualifying group.

The country's only appearance in the finals was in 1990 when they lost all three first-round matches to the former West Germany and Yugoslavia and Colombia.

Queiroz's first task is to prepare a team for the Arab Nations Cup in Qatar in September. The Gulf Cup in Bahrain follows a month later and the Asian Games in Thailand in December.

"It will be foolish for me to promise cup victories. But I can promise hard work and dedication," said Queiroz.

Queiroz took Portugal to two world FIFA youth championships in 1989 and 1991 and coached the senior national team in qualifying for the 1994 World Cup in the United States when they failed to qualify.

He has had coaching stints at Sporting Lisbon, the New York-New Jersey MetroStars and the Grampus Eight of Japan's J-League.

Galatasaray rope in Taffarel

ISTANBUL, July 29 (Reuters/Internet): Brazilian international goalkeeper and World Cup hero Taffarel completed his move to Turkish champions Galatasaray on Wednesday, a club spokesman said.

He signed this morning. From now on he's officially part of Galatasaray," spokesman Turgay Vardar told the news agency.

Galatasaray announced last month they had agreed terms with Taffarel, but waited for the 32-year-old keeper to travel to Istanbul to sign the two-year contract for a \$3.5 million transfer fee from Atletico Mineiro of Brazil. He formerly played for Parma in Italy.

Taffarel, capped 101 times for Brazil and a World Cup winner in 1994, defied his critics with two superb saves in this year's World Cup semifinal penalty shoot-out against the Netherlands.

Thon won't play again?

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany, July 29: German veteran sweeper Olaf Thon said Tuesday his international career is over, reports AFP.

The 32-year-old Schalke star said he was quitting national side as coach Berti Vogts did not appear to want him any more, having dropped him for fellow veteran Lothar Matthaus during the World Cup.

"I telephoned Berti Vogts last week and told him I would not play again as long as he was coach. He said nothing to try to convince me to carry on," Thon said, adding the two men did not see eye to eye.

Thon won the last of his 52 caps in the first round win over Iran on June 25.

Thompson rules the pool



EAST MEADOW, New York, July 29 (Reuters/AP): Five-time Olympic gold medalist Jennifer Thompson won two races and anchored the victorious 400-metre relay team to spearhead a US route of China as women's swimming opened at the Goodwill Games on Tuesday.

The United States, which won 11 out of 14 events, beat China 68-34. In the night's other match of the three-day round-robin competition at the Nassau County Goodwill Games Swimming and Diving Centre, the world team defeated Germany 64-58.

Thompson, 25, of East Palo Alto, California, started the night by winning the 50-metre freestyle in 25.77 seconds. She also won the 100-metre freestyle 55.56 seconds and then anchored the 4x100-metre freestyle relay to a time of 3:43.98.

Ashley Tappin, Cristina Teuscher and Sylvia Berecknye also swam the relay, winning by nearly eight seconds over the Chinese (3:51.42).

"I'm little shocked to have won by that much," said Thompson, who was the fourth

and final leg. "I was just hoping we were in the lead by that time."

In the only surprise of the night, Russian Nadezhda Chemezova, 18, of the world team stunned a pair of 1996 Olympic medalists in the 200-metre freestyle, winning in 1:59.89.

Costarican native Claudio Poll of the world team, who earned a gold medal in Atlanta two years ago and the World Championship this year, took second in 2:00.57. Germany's Franziska van Almsick, the world record holder in the event and 1996 silver medalist, was third in 2:01.15.

"I wanted to go faster," said Van Almsick, who competed despite a hand injury. "However, I wasn't fully concentrating and I had a poor start."

South African Penny Heyns of the World Team, the world record holder in the 100-metre breaststroke, won the event easily in 1:08.36, the fastest time this year.

Heyns also won the 200-metre breaststroke with a time of 2:27.89. "This is my best performance since the Olympics," Heyns said.

Dutch swimmer Inge Debruijn of the World Team won the 50-metre freestyle (25.09) and the 100-metre butterfly (1:00.03).

"This is a very fast pool," she said. "Along with the crowd (support), a swimmer can break some records here."

Debruijn and the other swimmers will have that opportunity when the women's competition continues Thursday and Saturday, while the men compete on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

The team with the best worst-round robin record will be named gold medalists, medals also will be awarded to swimmers with the top three times in the individual events after the competition is completed.

In the individual events, teams are awarded five, three or one point for finishing first, second or third. In relays, the winning team receives seven points, the losing side none. Besides national and personal pride, money also is on the line. Swimmers finishing with the best times in their respective events will receive 1,000 US dollars each. Anyone setting a world record will earn 50,000 dollars.

Everton sign up Collins

LIVERPOOL, England, July 29 (Reuters/Internet): English premier league club Everton completed the 2.5 million pounds (\$4.1 million) signing of Scottish international midfielder John Collins from Monaco on Wednesday.

Collins is the second big signing by the Liverpool club this week following the arrival of his former Monaco team mate Frenchman Olivier Dacourt.

Collins said the presence of former Rangers boss Smith was a major factor in the deal.

"I've known Walter since I was 12 years old," said Collins, who made his name with Celtic in Scotland.

"He coached me when I was a kid and I've obviously seen a lot of him while he was at Rangers. I like his style and him being here was a big pull."

Collins said Smith had promised him a more attacking role than he enjoyed with Monaco.

He said it was a hard decision to leave the principality where he had two enjoyable years, winning the French championship and reaching the semifinals of the European Cup. But Collins missed the atmosphere and passion of the British game and said he was looking forward to enjoying the atmosphere at Everton.

The player said he was unconcerned about the Merseyside club's recent poor form which has seen them fighting against relegation in four of the last five seasons.

"I'm not worried about that. All I'm thinking about is John Collins, Everton and the future," he said.

it's coming to an end," Shepard said.

Cuba's Israel Alvarez salvaged some Cuban pride Tuesday by outclassing Anthony Stewart 7-2 in a light heavyweight bout.

But the lefthanded Alvarez didn't win many points for sportsmanship, he was roundly booed by the sparse crowd of 1,660 at Madison Square Garden when with less than 10 seconds left in the last round he threw his hands up in victory and pranced around the ring.

He was warned by the referee but no points were taken away. Glad to have wrung one victory from the Americans, Alvarez returned to his corner and slapped high-fives with his cornermen.

American John Medina edged Omar Harvaez of Argentina 9-8 in a flyweight match.

"We trained hard for this, and I was able to push myself to pull something up for this," Medina said. "I knew it was even going into the fourth round, and I was just hoping that after the last two minutes were up, I was ahead."

One of the most exciting bouts of the session was the super heavyweight matchup between Paolo Vidoz of Italy and Keith Govan of the United States.

Vidoz, who won 8-1, displayed a variety of punches, working the body well and doubling up with vicious hooks to the side and the head. He also consistently landed hard overhead lefts to Govan's head. In the third round, Vidoz landed a right to the head that sent Govan staggering across the ring.

Vidoz said he "knew that my left hand was very bad to the American."

Even when Govan landed his blows they were tentative slaps which Vidoz shrugged off.

Goodwill Games at a glance

UNDATED, July 29 (AP): Americans Jenny Thompson and Cristina Teuscher each won two individual swimming events, set a game record and swam on a winning relay.

STARS: Roberto Benitez, a 17-year-old from the United States, outpointed flyweight world champion Manuel Mantilla of Cuba 12-8 in the quarterfinals. It was the third victory of the day for US fighters against Cuban foes.

LOOKAHEAD: A day of big names is on tap Wednesday. Figure skating begins with US champion Todd Eldredge in the men's short programme along with preliminaries in pairs and dance. The US men's swimming team, with world champions Bill Pilczuk and Lenny Krayzelburg, takes on Germany. Women's beach volleyball begins. And boxing reaches the semifinal round, with three-time world champion Felix Savon of Cuba meeting American Malcolm Tann.

QUOTEBOOK: "There's an intimidation factor involved with Cuban boxers, an aura, but I feel like it's coming to an end." Teance Shepherd, an American featherweight, who defeated Rudinelson Hardy of Cuba 16-3 to reach the semifinals.

Saga of soccer chant

LONDON, July 29 (Reuters/Internet): British composer Sir Edward Elgar was mad about football and penned the world's first documented soccer chant after a Wolverhampton Wanderers match a century ago, the Times newspaper reported on Monday.

The revelation that Elgar composed the first football chant is a thunderclap that brings two great traditions together, the newspaper declared in an editorial written under the headline Elgar rules, OK?

The Times said the late composer, whose Enigma Variations ranks as one of Britain's favourite classical compositions, was a fervent Wolves fan who attended several matches at the Midlands clubs Molineux ground.

Elgar reportedly first went to a match in 1895 with Dora Penney, the teenage daughter of the actor Wolverhampton.

Wolves were formed around 1877 and were founder members of the English Football League in 1888. They won the FA Cup in 1893 as well as being runners-up in 1889 and 1896.

"I quickly found out that music was the last thing he wanted to talk about. I think we talked about football," the newspaper reported Dora as writing later about their first meeting during a visit by the composer to her father's house.

After one match in 1898, she sent Elgar a cutting from a local newspaper. Elgar was apparently so taken by one descriptive phrase used -- He banged the leather for goal -- that he promptly set it to music.

Thus undoubtedly producing the first fully documented football chant, declared the Times, printing the first line of the

chant complete with the phrase. The editorial warned however that the melody may be complex for the grandstand.

A plaque commemorating Elgar's association with Wolves is to be unveiled at Molineux on Saturday.

Okocha off to Paris

ISTANBUL, July 29: Turkish club Fenerbache said on Tuesday it had sold Nigerian international Jay Jay Okocha to French side Paris St Germain for 17 million US dollars, reports Reuters.

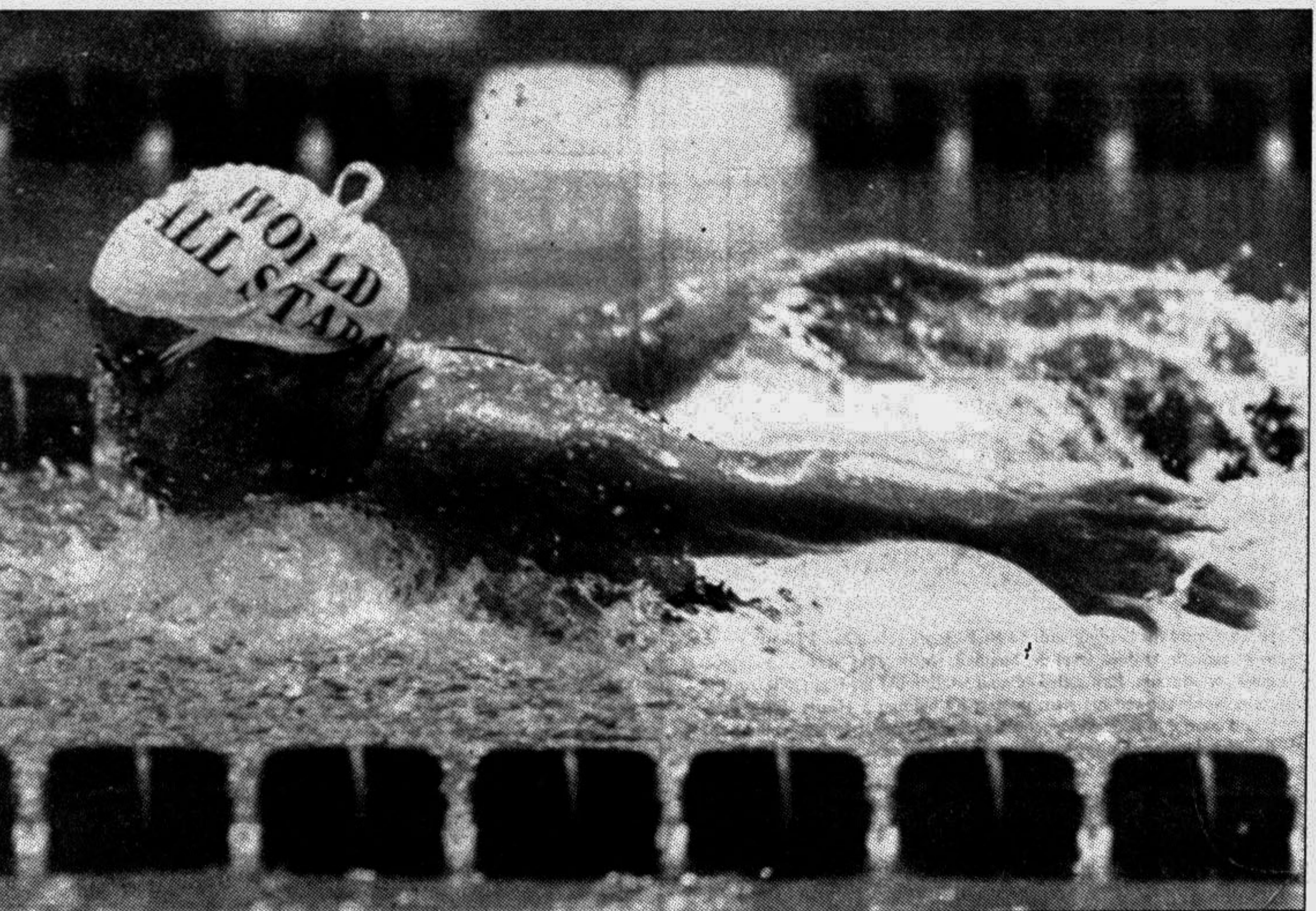
A club official said the Istanbul side had failed in its efforts to persuade the talented midfielder to stay with the side he joined in 1996 from Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt.

"We have agreed on 17 million US dollars," Anatolian news agency quoted Alsi Yildirim as saying.

Flamboyant 24-year-old Okocha was an attacking playmaker for the Nigerian side at this year's World Cup. His languid skill and deceptive pace made him a firm favourite with Fenerbache fans.

His departure leaves newly-arrived German coach Joachim Loew with a gaping hole in his midfield less than two weeks before the start of the Turkish season.

Fenerbache, due to play in this season's UEFA Cup competition, finished second in the Turkish championships last year behind Istanbul arch-rivals Galatasaray.



Holland's Inge de Bruijn on her way to winning the ladies' 100-metre butterfly gold at the Goodwill Games in New York on July 28. — AFP photo