

Sport

EURO 2000 qualifiers

Rude awakenings & close shaves



PARIS, Sept 6 (AFP/Internet): Europe's elite nations suffered a night of shocks and surprises Saturday when they opened their campaigns in the qualifying groups for the 2000 European Championships.

World champions France were held to a draw in Iceland, England crashed in Sweden despite scoring the fastest goal of the evening when captain Alan Shearer found the net after just two minutes, Spain were dumbfounded by Cyprus while Croatia, who finished in third place in the World Cup, went down 2-0 in Ireland in group eight and had two players sent off.

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SWEDEN-2, ENGLAND-1

If England felt cheated by their World Cup defeat on penalties to Argentina they could have no complaints after self-destructing against the Swedes.

Alan Shearer gave Glenn Hoddle's men a dream start with a freekick after only 76 seconds for his 21st international goal.

But thereafter things went downhill as the Swedes, who had failed to qualify for France 98, scored twice in as many minutes to turn the Group Five match on its head.

First Andreas Andersson, Shearer's teammate at Newcastle, shot home after goalkeeper David Seaman could only parry a long-range free-kick from Stefan Schwarz.

Then in the Swedes' next attack an error by Paul Scholes allowed in Johan Mjallby and he made no mistake from close range.

England's agony was completed in the second-half when Liverpool's Paul Ince, already booked, produced a wild tackle on the hour and was given his marching orders.

England might have had a penalty in the final minute when Shearer went down but the referee waved play on.

IRELAND-2, CROATIA-0

Croatia were knocked back on their heels when the Irish hit them with a two-goal blast inside the opening 15 minutes from Denis Irwin and Roy Keane.

The Croats' frustration finally got the better of them as they finished with nine men after red cards were shown to striker Mario Stanic and defender Krunoslav Juric following late tackles on the Republic's Steve Staunton.

which called an abrupt end to the post match press conference. The game was being played in Liverpool while Cardiff Arms Park is renovated for the 1999 Rugby World Cup.

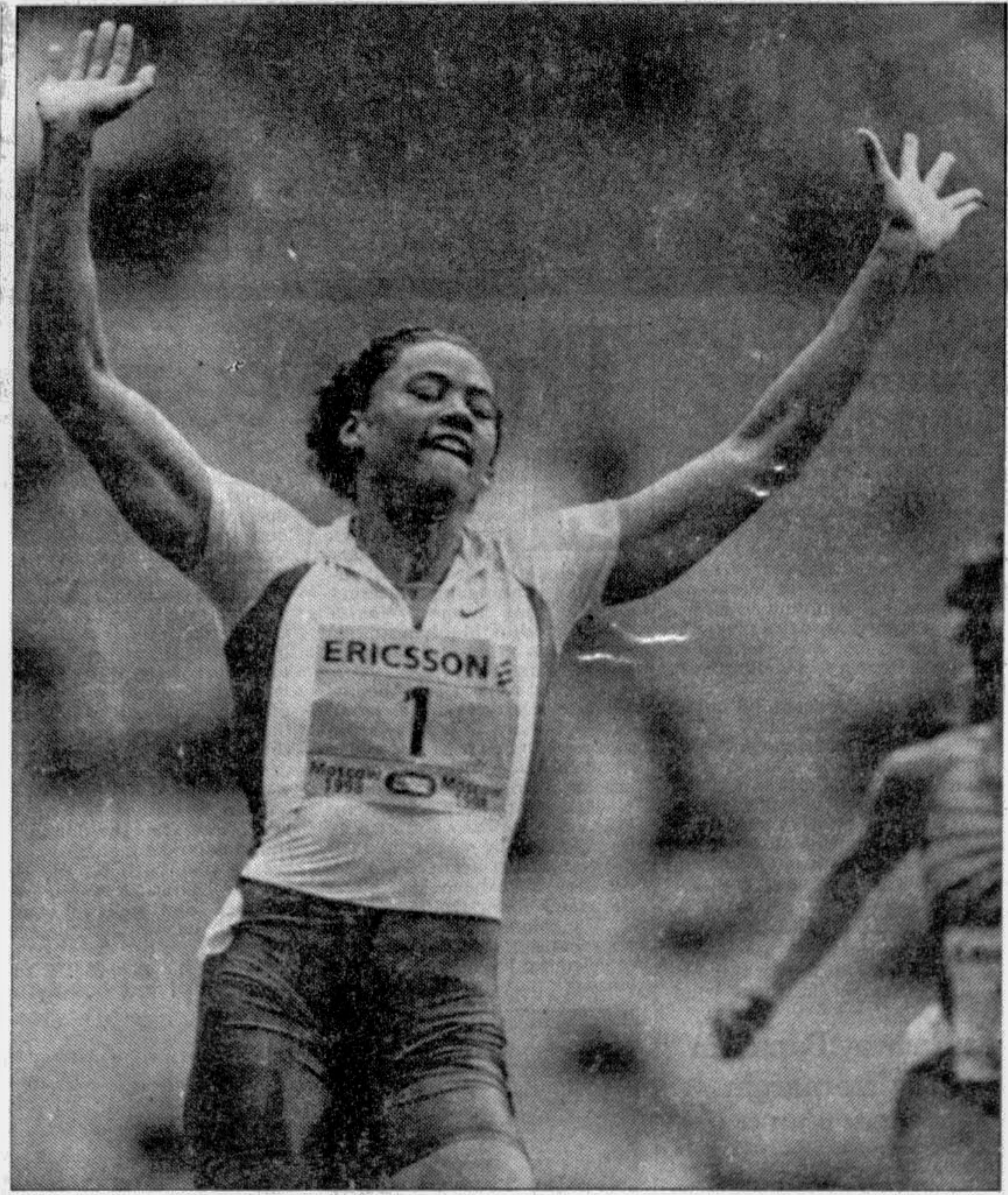
Baggio admitted that even though the manager has changed he was disappointed that he again started the game on the bench with Alessandro Del Piero partnering Vieri.

Although the Italians left with the points the Welsh can look back on their performance with pride. Only a smart save from Angelo Peruzzi in the 10th minute kept out a Nathan Blake header and a Ryan Giggs free-kick crashed against the bar moments before halftime.

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Boost sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN. Competition-102. Tick the Correct Answers. Post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm, Sept 11 '98, and draw shortly afterwards.



SIMPLY THE BEST: Champion US sprinter Marion Jones raises her hands in delight after her victory in the 100 metres at the IAAF Golden League Grand Prix in Moscow on September 5. Jones clocked 10.83 sec. — AFP photo

Byran fails to hit jackpot Marion, Hicham's double delight

MOSCOW, Sept 6: World champions Marion Jones, Haile Gebrselassie and Hicham El Guerrouj shared out a one million-dollar jackpot here on Saturday as they dominated their events in the Golden League Grand Prix final, reports AFP.

financial crisis, only 10,000 of the 80,000 seats at the Luzhnik Stadium were sold, forcing organisers to give tickets away to school children in an attempt to boost the crowd.

metres in the final straight, Laban Rotich of Kenya was second in 3:33.04. Gebrselassie, meanwhile, looking as if he was out for a stroll in the park, pulled away from the pack with a lap to go, all the time monitoring the stadium's huge electronic screen to check on his progress.



Steffi Graf (German tennis superstar) "I want to do well, no question about that. But there is no number on my mind or a certain amount of titles."

Boldon's eyes on 100 metres

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 6: Trinidad and Tobago sprint star Ato Boldon is so determined to break Donovan Bailey's 100 metres world record he is to skip the Commonwealth Games 200 metres, reports AFP.

Lanka floating on air

COLOMBO, Sept 6 (Reuters/Internet): Ballads and poetry dedicated to modern cricketers may not be regularly written in most countries the game is played in.

cricket instils national pride and newspapers are either full of lyrical praise or condemnation for most things, there was even a report of a death because of the team's recent victory over England.

Sri Lanka's victory. "A heart attack caused by excessive happiness," an inquest was told, the state-owned Daily News reported.

SIX NO TRUMPS A K Sayeedul Huq

A TIMID BIDDING BY SOUTH (Hand # 86)

Table with 4 columns: North, South (D), East, West. Cards listed include S: KQJ, H: K9X, D: A8XX, C: AXX, S: AX, H: AQ108XXX, D: KXX, C: X.

BIDDING table with 4 columns: South, West, North, East. Entries include 1H, 4H, 5H, Pass.

With a long suit South bid 1 Heart and partner responded with 2NT. South timidly bid 4 Hearts indicating that he had a minimum hand.

THE PLAY

West led the King of Clubs which was won by South with the dummy's Ace. When the dummy appeared the declarer realised that Seven Hearts were lay down.



State Minister for Sports, Obaidul Quader, and Bangladesh Swimming Federation president, chief of Naval staff, Rear Admiral Md Nurul Islam distributing relief at Munshiganj on Saturday. Federation general secretary Musharrif Hossain was also present.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. ACROSS: 1 Bruce Wayne's inspiration, 4 Tucker's partner?, 7 Farm output, 12 Mr. Baba, 13 Sapporo sash, 14 Monopoly purchase, 15 Blue Hollywood pooch, 18 Doodle Dandy, 19 A cube has 12 faces, 20 Incurable illness?, 22 A billion years, 23 Donaldson and Kinison, 27 Shade source, 29 African antelope, 31 Worship, 34 Oliver Warbucks, 35 Yogi Berra's pal, 37 Fashionable, plus, 38 Catch.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF HE'S NOT PLAYING, THE GOLFER USUALLY FEELS HE'S ONLY PUTTERING ALONG. Today's Cryptquip clue: N equals F. The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another.