

# Griffith Joyner: Greatness personified

**NEW YORK, Sept 22 (AP/AF/FP):** Florence Griffith Joyner was one of a kind. The fastest woman's sprinter in history, she also established the standards for fashion in track and field.

No one has matched the feats she set 10 years ago — world records in the 100- and 200-metre dashes, marks that still stand. And no one has duplicated the flair she displayed — her flamboyant, colourful, one-legged outfits, her elaborate, well-polished, 6-inch (15-cm) fingernails.

Police said an autopsy will be conducted but the 1988 Olympic hero is believed to have died of a heart seizure similar to one she suffered in April of 1996 on a plane bound for St Louis.

"It's very sad someone so young has to deal with this type of thing," said retired US athletics legend Carl Lewis. "People still remember the things she did."

Griffith Joyner stunned the world on July 16, 1988, with a world record 100m run of 10.49 seconds in a quarterfinal heat at the US Olympic trials in Indianapolis.

On a blustery day, a wind gauge for her effort read zero, a controversy that had critics as recently as last week calling for the mark to be stricken or noted as believed to be wind-aided.

Griffith Joyner went on to three gold medals at Seoul and was also part of the 400m silver medal relay, with a 48.07 leg.

"We were dazzled by her speed, humbled by her talent and captivated by her style," US President Bill Clinton said. "Though she rose to the pinnacle of the world of sports, she never forgot where she came from, devoting time and resources to helping children."

Griffith was co-chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

Griffith Joyner married 1984 Olympic triple jump champion Al Joyner in 1987 and also became the sister-in-law Jackie Joyner-Kersey, heptathlon world-record holder and six-time Olympic medalist.

Joyner Kersey and her husband-coach Bobby Kersey were unavailable for comment, but Joyner's brother, Wedon Pitts, said, "It's a sad time. Everyone is down. But we are all trying to stick together."

Questions of performance-enhancing drugs dogged Griffith Joyner after she made major speed gains in 1988 and quit the sport shortly thereafter, but she passed every doping test she ever took.

"No one can achieve greatness without being under suspicion," USA Track and Field executive director Craig Masback said. "She was tested 11 times in 1988 and didn't test positive."

"Her legacy should be as a great athlete and a great leader of this sport. Florence was a groundbreaker, the entire community of track and field mourns her passing."

Crawford rejected suggestions of doping, saying, "Flo-Jo will go down in history as one of the greatest athletes on earth, she met every test. It would be very unfortunate to put any black mark to her name. I hope the world would embrace her."

Evelyn Ashford, a former women's 100m world record holder and Seoul rival of Griffith Joyner, was so shaken by the death to worry about the



**THE TIME SHE RULED THE WORLD:** An AFP file photo of American sprint queen Florence Griffith Joyner celebrating her 100 metres win in the 1988 Seoul Olympics. Flo-Jo died in Los Angeles on Sept 21 due to a seizure.

doping accusations. "I don't want to talk about the doubts, I'm in shock right now," she said. "Our rivalry and the things about her records, I guess that's why everybody's calling me. I'm shocked. My sister-in-law called me and told me about the heart attack. I was totally surprised."

Griffith Joyner, running uniforms showing a flamboyance for design, made basketball's Indiana Pacers ask her to redesign their uniforms in 1989.

"Sadly, her life has passed as rapidly as her races," said Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletics Federation. "It is a great shock and which makes me extremely sad."

"Flo-Jo not only won three gold medals — she won the hearts of the American people," US Vice-President Al Gore said.

Griffith Joyner, who won the Sullivan Award as 1988's top US athlete, retired shortly after the Games amid accusations of doping. She pondered a 1996 Olympic bid but said a sore right Achilles tendon kept her out.

Griffith Joyner authored many children's books, featuring the character Barry Bam Bam; she wrote poems; she was a beautician, an artist, a model and performed in movies and television; she did numerous commercial endorsements. Greg Foster, a three-time

world champion in the 110 hurdles who was once engaged to Flo-Jo, called her death "a shock."

"We lost one of the great track and field athletes in history," he said. "She's going to be missed."

Flo-Jo was born on December 21, 1959, one of 11 children of an electrical technician father and a teacher.

## World's fastest woman

- A profile:**
- Born in Los Angeles in 1959
  - Began running track at age 7
  - Went to California State University to train with renowned Bob Kersey, then followed him to UCLA
  - Won silver in the 200 metres in 1984 Olympics
  - Won three golds and one silver in 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul
  - Set world records in 100 meter trials in Indianapolis 200 meter race in Seoul
  - Clocked at 23.5 mph
  - Married to 1984 Olympic triple-jump gold medalist Al Joyner
  - Sister-in-law of Jackie Joyner-Kersey, six-time Olympic medalist and world heptathlon record-holder
  - Retired from track in 1989
  - Served as co-chairman of President's Council on Physical Fitness
  - Inducted into USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1995

"The nurse insisted that Flo-Jo was coming to the hospital regularly to be given a five-part cocktail of drugs, including steroids and testosterone."

"She was adamant about what she had seen. When I mentioned it to one of my coaches, who must have been looking out for some quick money, he contacted the local press and I was told there was at least 25,000 pounds in it for me."

"That was quite a lot of money to me at that time but I definitely wasn't interested. I was just an athlete, training hard. I also knew that when it came to drugs of any kind round there you could easily get a hit man dealing with you and taking you out."

Boothe hopes that the suspicions surrounding the death of Griffith-Joyner will serve as a warning to young athletes who may be tempted to take drugs to improve their performance.

"Because of what I know intimately of the scene at that time in California I can only pray that she did not die from the long-term effect of using drugs in sport," she said.

"If she did then this would be a terrible warning to the young in athletics today."



AP/Ed De Gasero. Susie Hoffman

# Flo-Jo took steroids?

**LONDON, Sept 22:** A former training partner of Florence Griffith-Joyner, who died on Monday at the age of 38, is convinced the sprinter took a cocktail of drugs to make her the fastest woman on earth, reports AFP.

Lorna Boothe, a former Commonwealth silver medalist hurdler, trained regularly with Griffith-Joyner in the build-up to the 1988 Seoul Olympics when the American's record-breaking performances helped her to three gold medals.

But Boothe, now the British athletics team manager, was amazed at the transformation of Griffith-Joyner and believes drugs may have played a role in helping her to set world records for 100 and 200 metres that still stand today.

Boothe said: "I am astonished by the way Flo-Jo, a very good athlete in her own right, changed so incredibly from the slightly overweight, sluggish sprinter I was easily able to beat in training in California. She dramatically developed into sub-11 seconds from that Olympic summer."

Griffith-Joyner, who died of a suspected heart seizure having already survived a similar attack in 1996, was tainted with accusations that her performances in Seoul were only achieved on the back of steroid abuse.

She was surrounded by rumours that her striking new muscle definition was chemically induced, something which Boothe believes may well be the case.

"In 1987-88 I met a nurse who said she was working in a California hospital in what we called the valley," 43-year-old Boothe tells the London Evening Standard.

# MU rope in Queen Elizabeth!

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 22 (Reuters):** Britain's Queen Elizabeth today signed for Manchester United.

But she has no plans to play as striker for the world's most famous football club, target of a takeover by media tycoon Rupert Murdoch.

Having flown half way across the world for her state visit to Malaysia, she ended up autographing a football for famous Asian fans of the famous British club.

Club fans, sporting a sea of red Manchester United shirts, met the Queen on her walk about in a Kuala Lumpur shopping centre.

The football will now be kept in a special glass case in the Kuala Lumpur headquarters of the club which boasts 5,200 members in Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia and Thailand.

On hand to greet the Queen was Britain's football ambassador, Sir Bobby Charlton, one of the club's most famous players and a member of England's 1966 World Cup winning team.

The signing was part of ceremonies to promote Manchester, site of the next Commonwealth Games in 2002.

The Kuala Lumpur Games were officially closed by the Queen on Monday night.

British Sky Broadcasting (BSkyB), Murdoch's satellite television company, agreed earlier this month with Manchester United's board of directors to buy the club. The deal sparked uproar among football fans who felt Murdoch would have too much power in the game.

The members of the Asia-wide club are fanatically devoted to Manchester United. Club administrator Laurence How's son and daughter have even gone to university in Manchester.

The fans' favourite player is David Beckham, reviled in Britain after being sent off in England's crucial World Cup game against Argentina.

They go to England once a year to watch a home match live and regularly congregate at their club to watch the other matches on satellite television.

Queen Elizabeth's decision to autograph a Manchester United football may not go down too well with her 14-year-old grandson, Prince Harry. He is a keen fan of Manchester United's arch rival, Arsenal.

# 32-man cricket pool 80-overs league

**Sports Reporter**  
Unlike previous years, the Premier Division cricket league will be held on a single league basis and matches will be 80 overs-a-side affairs. This was disclosed by Bangladesh Cricket Board general secretary Syed Ashraful Huj last night while announcing the 72-member Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM).

Ashraful also said that the First Division league will also run in the same format provided the CCDM, who runs the cricket in the capital, have enough grounds during the season.

The board have bracketed 32 cricketers in the national pool for the coming season and have decided to allow a maximum of five players for a club. Besides, the Premier league outfits will be able to register a maximum of four foreign players of whom two will be eligible to play in a game.

The 32-man national pool consists of Azam Iqbal, Shahriar Hossain, Faruque Ahmed, Akram Khan, Aminul Islam, Khaled Mahmud, Naimur Rahman, Hasibul Hossain, Morshed Ali Khan, Safiuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Rafique, Sabir Khan, Mushfiqur Rahman, Zakir Hasan, Minhazul Abedin, Athar Ali Khan, Tanveer Khan, Enamul Haque, Sanwar Hossain, Anur Rahman, Mehrez Hossain, Javed Omar, Belim, Hasanuzzaman, Habibul Bashar, Zakir Hossain, Jewel Hossain, Mofizur Rahman, Manjurul Islam, Al-Shariar, Sheikh Salauddin, Sajjad Ahmed Shipon and Saiful Islam.

Separated by Linford Christie and Calvin Smith, the pair settled under starter's orders.

At the gun, Johnson literally leapt from the blocks, propelled by those improbably powerful arms.

At 50 metres he was almost two metres ahead of Lewis, at 80 the margin was the same, at the finish he crossed the line like a runaway express train in an incredible 9.79 seconds, still the fastest time ever recorded without wind assistance.

It was though, assisted by a steroid also used to fatten cattle for market. A test at the

# Dhaka Billiard's quarterly prizes

**Sports Reporter**  
The prize-giving ceremony of the week-long quarterly snooker and pool tournament of Dhaka Billiard Centre (DBC) was held at the centre in Gulshan last night.

Syed Fahim Munaim, Managing Editor of The Daily Star, gave away the prizes among the winners as chief guest of the night.

Chaired by AK Faizur Rahman, chairman of the DBC, Jubayer Ahmed, Trade Development Officer of British American Tobacco, Bangladesh, and eminent banker Zahurul Haque Chowdhury were also present on the occasion.

Sohel Asif won the men's snooker title and received a mobile telephone with a sim card while Anwar Hossain, who emerged runners up, bagged a VCD player.

In the juniors (under-21) snooker competition, Iqbal Asif and Ashique Aziz clinched the championship and runner-up trophies, and were awarded equal to the men.

Iqbal Asif also received a VCD player as champion of the student pool competition while Arbib Majed received a CD player as runner-up in the event.

A large number of guests and members of the DBC attended the programme.

Speaking as the chief guest, Mr Munaim thanked the DBC for promoting the game in Bangladesh and also assured the centre to provide necessary media coverage in future for the development of the sport.

# Div II soccer

Muslim Institute defeated Prantik KC 1-0 in the metropolitan Second Division football league at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, reports UNB.

Nadim netted the all-important goal in the 50th minute.

Wednesday's matches: Gandaria Famosus SC vs Mohakhali Eleven, PWD vs Avijatrik Malbagh at the same venue.

# Euro 2000 Traffic main trouble

**BRUSSELS, Sept 22 (Reuters/Internet):** Traffic jams are the main problem for the Euro 2000 soccer championship in Belgium and the Netherlands, tournament director Alain Courtois said on Tuesday.

"Everybody's talking about security and tickets, but what's keeping me busy more is the mobility problem," Courtois told Het Nieuwsblad newspaper.

"How are people going to reach and leave the stadium? How do we make sure that it isn't a nuisance for people? We need good public transport between both countries to avoid traffic jams. This will be the (main) problem of Euro 2000," he said.

Courtois dismissed reports that construction works in Euro 2000 stadiums were behind schedule.

Preparations for the finals have recently been attacked in the Dutch and Belgian media. UEFA denied a report it had threatened to take the finals away from the Belgian and Dutch co-hosts.

"I'm regularly in contact with UEFA. Never did I hear any criticism or warnings," Courtois said.

He said a number of areas -- including security and ticket distribution -- had not yet been finalised.

# Ben's drug bust still haunts Olympics

**LONDON, Sept 21 (Reuters/Internet):** With the luxury of hindsight, Ben Johnson's rise and fall at the Seoul Olympics has the power and simplicity of an ancient Greek myth.

An outsider upsets the established order, incurs swift retribution from the offended gods and, eventually, harmony is restored.

But it was never quite that simple and 10 years on the Johnson drugs bust still haunts the Olympic movement.

A decade ago this Thursday, the brooding Jamaican-born Canadian with the outside torso of a weightlifter stood in lane three among the finest sprinters ever assembled for an Olympic 100 metres final.

Three lanes to his left, defending champion Carl Lewis bounded on the balls of his feet with balletic grace, a gloriously gifted athlete at the height of his powers.

Separated by Linford Christie and Calvin Smith, the pair settled under starter's orders.

At the gun, Johnson literally leapt from the blocks, propelled by those improbably powerful arms.

At 50 metres he was almost two metres ahead of Lewis, at 80 the margin was the same, at the finish he crossed the line like a runaway express train in an incredible 9.79 seconds, still the fastest time ever recorded without wind assistance.

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championships. Harmony, though, was not and has not been restored either to the Olympic movement or the major sport of the Games.

After Johnson's expulsion, the Seoul Games became bathed in an increasingly unreal light.

Florence Griffith Joyner, who died suddenly of a heart seizure at the age of 38 on Monday, took centre stage before an adoring public but a by now sceptical international media.

Better known for her preposterously long fingernails and outlandish outfits than her sprinting ability, Griffith Joyner reinvented herself in Olympic year as a world record-breaker with a freakish 10.49 seconds over 100 metres at the US trials.

Disbelievers on her arrival in Seoul noted her bulging muscles and curiously deep voice and drew their own conclusions. Flo-Jo, they decided, was fuelled either by steroids or human growth hormone. She denied the charges.

Her news conference after setting a world record 21.34 seconds in the 200 final became increasingly hostile as Flo-Jo was asked to explain her sudden improvement.

"Hard work and dedication," she replied at one stage. "Hard work and what?" shouted one cynic. "Medication?"

The Johnson scandal combined with suspicions over Griffith Joyner and a host of other athletes in a variety of sports changed the face of the Olympics forever.

Previously, most observers had been prepared to suspend their disbelief despite increas-

ing anecdotal evidence that drug use was widespread in athletics and other Olympic sports.

Now that a major figure was revealed as a cheat the mood darkened and a Canadian government inquiry in 1989 cast a shadow over track and field which has never been removed.

Charles Dubin, an associate chief justice of the Ontario Supreme Court, heard evidence from Johnson and his coach Charlie Francis detailing systematic drug use since November, 1981.

Francis's evidence was chilling. The coach said no clean sprinter could hope to survive in the modern era and pointed to the evidence of the East Ger-

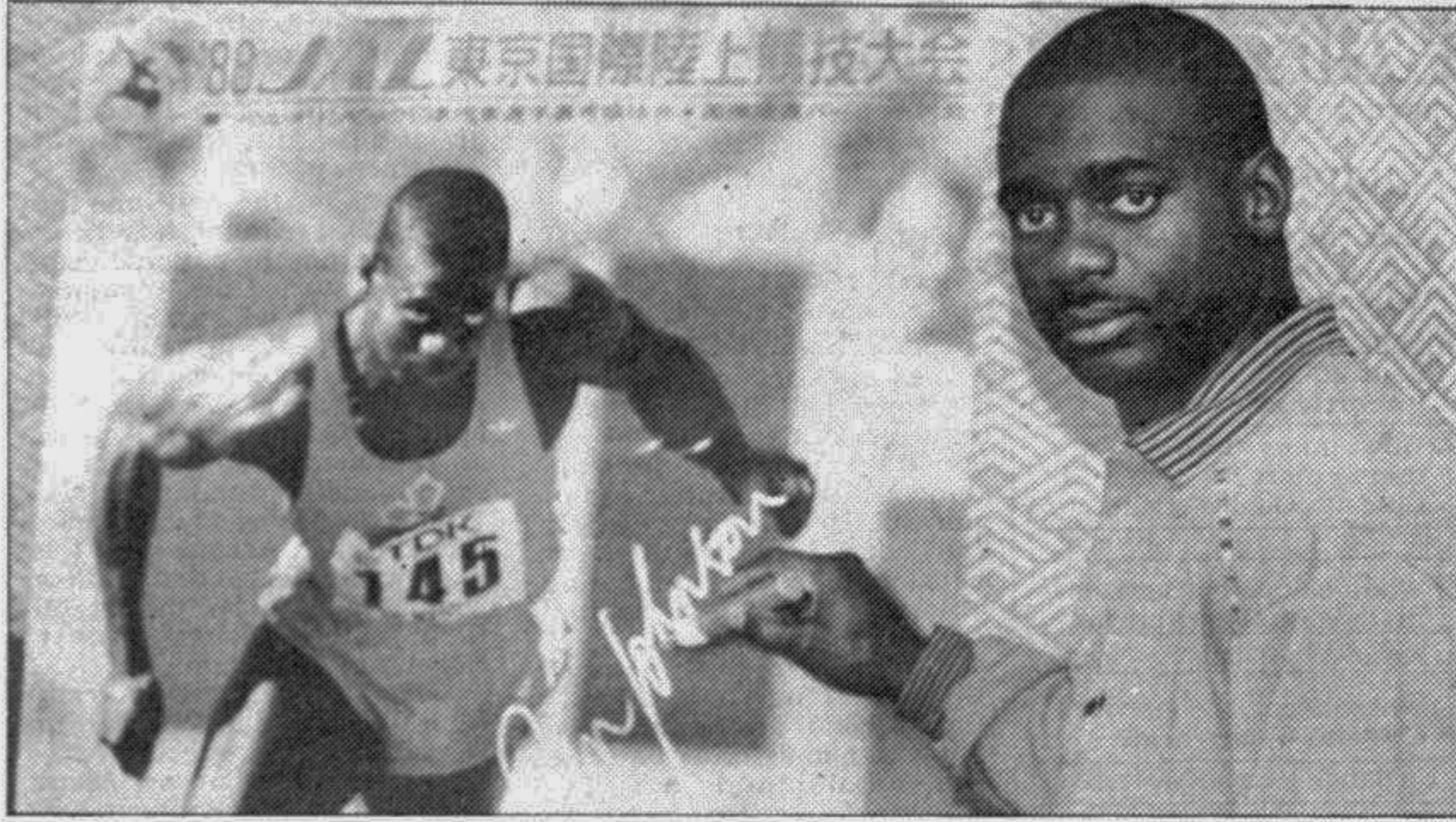
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On Monday, by tragic coincidence the same day as Griffith Joyner's premature death, Johnson had confidently anticipated an Ontario court would uphold his lawyers' argument that the ban was in restraint of trade.

Instead, the court denied the application and Johnson's desperately fragile illusion that he could return to running at the age of 36 was surely shattered beyond repair.

Olympic Committee to call a special drugs conference for early next year.

At the eye of the storm lies Johnson, banned for life in 1993 for excessive levels of the male sex hormone testosterone.



**NO WAY OUT:** An AFP file photo of Canadian sprint ace Ben Johnson signing his autograph. Johnson, who had appealed against a life ban imposed on him in 1988, got a negative response from the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) on September 21.

Olympic doping centre showed up traces of the drug. His yellow, bulging eyes were the give-away.

Three days later, Johnson was hustled through Kimpo airport by 50 security guards after the biggest drugs bust in Olympic history, a temporary hero now turned international pariah.

Retribution was swift and savage.

Johnson's gold medal and world record were removed. In the following year athletics' world governing body took its revenge, expunging his 1987 world title and previous world mark from the record books even though he had passed all drug tests at the Rome world

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# Effenberg bids bye to nat'l team

**COLOGNE, Germany, Sept 22:** Stefan Effenberg's international comeback lasted just 18 days, reports AFP.

After Bayern Munich's 5-3 win over Hamburg, Effenberg, 30, stunned his colleagues and confirmed he would not play for Germany again, less than three weeks after he had resumed his career in the national team.

Former coach Berti Vogts, who resigned earlier this month, called him up after Germany's miserable World Cup quarterfinal exit against Cro-

atia and he played in two friendlies against Malta (2-1) and Romania (1-1).

Vogts had wanted to build a new team around the Bayern midfielder, but quit on September 7 after eight volatile years in the job.

Effenberg denied that had anything to do with his decision.

He insisted club duties at Bayern and his young family are simply more important to him than playing for his country.

"I want to concentrate fully on Bayern over the next three years that has to be accepted and respected. Others are sure to

see it differently but it is my decision. I want to spend what little free time I have with my wife and my three children," Effenberg said.

"It has nothing to do with the fact Berti Vogts is no longer trainer or that Erich Ribbeck has replaced him."

Ribbeck's assistant coach Uli Stielike was stunned.

"Two weeks ago he made his comeback and now he's retiring already. I just can't understand it. On the field his absence is a loss for us," said Stielike.

Effenberg's wife Martina, who doubles as the player's manager, said she did not agree with her husband's decision.

# SIX NO TRUMPS

**A K Sayeedul Huq**  
WEST PUSHED THE OPPONENTS TO A VIABLE GAME CONTRACT (Hand # 101)

<b>North</b>	♠ Q X X	♥ K 10 9 6	♦ D X	♣ A 6 X X X
<b>West</b>	♠ A K 8 6 X	♥ Q J 8 X X X	♦ D 6	♣ K
<b>East</b>	♠ S J 10 7	♥ H A 7 X	♦ J 9 8	♣ J 9 7 X
<b>South (D)</b>	♠ S 9 X	♥ H None	♦ D A K Q 10 7 X X X	♣ C Q 10 8

Bidding: East-West were vulnerable.

<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>
2 Diamonds*	Double	Pass	2 Spades**
3 Diamonds	3 Hearts	Double	Pass
4 Diamonds	4 Spades	Pass	Pass
5 Diamonds	Pass	Pass	Pass

\* Strong diamond suit  
\*\* Artificial, showing 7-9 HCP.

South opened two Diamonds which under the bidding system followed by the partners indicated a strong Diamond suit with most of the points concentrated in the bid suit. It was doubled by West for take out and East showed HCP in the range of 7-9. South rebid Diamonds and West bid 3 Hearts. This was doubled by North for penalty but South bid again as he had hardly anything else to beat East West. At this stage West should have passed leaving the decision to the partner, but he thought that partner would never know about his second suit. Thus, West bid 4 Spades and when it was passed by both North and East, South booked game in Diamonds.

## THE PLAY

West led the King of Spades and on seeing the Queen in the dummy switched to the Queen of Hearts. This was covered with the King and Ace while the declarer ruffed in the closed hand. On clearing the trumps in three rounds, the declarer played the 9 of Spades from hand to set up a trick in the dummy. West ducked the trick as he did not have a suitable return. On winning the Spade Queen the declarer played the Ace of Clubs with the intention of playing a small Club from dummy to insert the 10 from the closed hand in the hope of finding the Jack with the East. However, he struck gold as West produced the King on the Ace of Clubs. Thus, he took the marked Club finesse to make 6 Diamonds. In the post-mortem it was found that if West passed 4 Diamonds, North South would have made only a part game as North had no intention to go to the game contract in Diamonds.

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Literary mono-
  - 4 Phoenix's source
  - 7 "Scram!"
  - 8 Territory of Russia
  - 10 Poppy derivative
  - 11 My fair lady?
  - 13 Minor traffic accidents
  - 16 Doctor's due
  - 17 Ridd's love
  - 18 Swiss river
  - 19 Observe Ramadan
  - 20 "Bom Free" heroine
  - 21 Won't leave
  - 23 Old hat
  - 25 Piglet's pop
  - 26 Cavor
  - 27 "The Greatest"
  - 28 Extent
  - 30 Conk out
  - 33 RuPaul's emulators
  - 36 Nicks or Wonder
  - 37 Fairway chunk
  - 38 Is, ostensibly
  - 39 Green land
  - 40 Grand —, N.S.
  - 41 First st. DOWN
  - 1 Lorelei's river
  - 10 Vacation-
  - 2 Forte
  - 3 Prince's suit
  - 4 "Tonight Show" pioneer
  - 5 "Basic Instinct" actress
  - 6 Flush, e.g.
  - 7 Graf —
  - 8 Monastery VIP
  - 9 Lofty goals
  - 10 Vacations-
  - 24 Changed the law
  - 25 Satchel
  - 26 Judicial ailments
  - 28 Cut
  - 29 News-making event
  - 30 Printer's apprentice
  - 31 Press agent?
  - 32 Superlative suffix
  - 3