

Column One

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT Formula Racing, or single-seater automobile racing, in which the designs of the cars are strictly regulated, is governed by FIA, the International Automobile Federation. The organisation, located in Paris, France, is the international governing body for much of worldwide automobile racing, including almost all racing outside of the United States. Periodically, FIA sets technical regulations for building, maintaining, and racing many different classes of cars. Vehicles used in Formula One (F1) racing — the most important form of racing outside the United States — are considered the highest form of single-seater racing cars due to the sophistication of construction and ultimate speed. Their design, in which the flow of air over and under the car (aided by sophisticated wings and the closeness of the car to its racing surface) creates a downward force, holds them close to the ground despite high speeds. Designed for road racing, F1 cars can accelerate and brake quickly. FIA also regulates classes for other formula cars. There are slower and less sophisticated single-seater cars competing in such categories as Formula Two (F2), Formula Three (F3), Formula Atlantic, Formula Renault, and Formula Ford, in descending order. We have only one category here, and that is the Formula Gap, which means put your bus, truck, car, baby-taxi, tempo, motor-cycle and rickshaw in the available gap ahead of you. By the way, they all compete here in the same category.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-107

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 4 '98, and draw
shortly afterwards

- Which country lifted the Wills International Cup?
S Africa W Indies India
- Who scored highest number of runs in the Wills Cup?
Kallis Cronje Wallace
- Who topped batting average in the Bangladesh-West Indies A One-day series?
Reifer Akram Javed
- Which team emerged champion in the national age-group swimming?
Khulna Nagan Kushtia
- Who will lead Bangladesh at Asian Games hockey tournament?
Mainun Sadek Kamal

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Zinedine Zidane

(French soccer superstar)
"Terrific. Winning the World Cup has given me a remarkable feeling of self-confidence. But that doesn't mean my approach to the game has changed. I recognise that I have to work for the team as much as ever, not the other way round. We've achieved plenty and we can go on doing so."

How he feels right now.

Rajshahi cricket

RAJSHAH, Dec 2: The second Mayor Gold Cup cricket tournament organised by Rajshahi City Corporation will be held at the local Government College ground from December 5, reports UNB.

Rajshahi mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu will formally open the meet.

Eleven sports clubs of Rajshahi and district teams from Chapainawabganj, Dinajpur and Pabna will also participate in the 13-day event.



Kalabagan cricketers warming up at their club field in Dhanmondi yesterday morning.

Premier Division Cricket League Preview - III Bagan doubt their bowlers

Al-Amin

The emergence of Kalabagan Krira Chakra as a major force in the domestic cricket circuit is a compliment of a motivated set of young organisers. It was not long ago that the modernistic powerhouse were struggling for their very survival in a makeshift clubhouse adjacent to the unkempt Kalabagan park. The last couple of years, however, saw a sea of change; a new building replacing the tumbledown and the otherwise bumpy meadow turning into lush greenery.

Kalabagan shot into the limelight when they finished runners-up in 1994-95. Their potentialities were further exposed when they repeated the feat the following year. But, the coveted championship remains elusive.

Bagan slipped to third place last season, but they look stronger this year as they renew their bid for a maiden title triumph. Not that they are once again depending on their foreign recruits, who have so far proved to be the cutting edge in their phenomenal rise. Cricket fans are yet to forget a Zahid Ahmed, the middle-aged Pakistani, who won many a match for Kalabagan. Or a Manzoor Elahi, for his pyrotechnics with the willow.

It is promising to note that unlike previous years, Kalabagan have recruited a much better band of local talent by roping in some young cricketers. Sajid Hassan, who played for Mohammedan last season, joined Kalabagan this year. Mushfiqur Rahman and Fahim Muntasir Sumit, who recently donned the national cap, are their other prized buys.

With hard-hitting opener Harun-ur Rashid staying back, discarded national seamer Saiful Islam likely to lead the team for the second successive year, Sajid Ahmed Monsur hopeful to find his class and, after a turbulent year, Mahabubur Rahman Selim working hard to get back his rhythm, the long-

serving Kalabagan coach Dipu Rai Choudhury was confident that his team could be motivated into a winning force.

"This time we are more resourceful than in the previous years. We have lost a couple of players this year. But at the same time we have got a spirited young side. Sajid, Sumit Mukul, Mushfiq and Shipon are always assets for a good fielding side," said Dipu Rai while talking to this reporter yesterday.

"We have some experienced players, but this is more like a young side. They are inexperienced to some extent. But I can assure you a cohesive and spirited Kalabagan side this year," claimed the former national cricketer.

A fine left-arm paceman of the yesteryears, Dipu said: "I'm counting on my batting and fielding rather than on bowling, which lacks penetration. Sajid and Liton will open the innings."

Of the two openers, Liton loves to play his shots. The balding right-hander has provided early onslaughts in the first fifteen overs. However, Sajid is more compact of the two openers. But Sajid, who hardly found a place in the regular Mohammedan eleven last year, needs a lot of hard work to get his confidence back.

"Shipon will bat at number three followed by Selim," continued Dipu. Shipon is no doubt one of the few players, who possess a solid technique. But the BKS product lacks concentration and most of the time throws away his wicket. For Selim, known for his trademark pullshot, it will be a real test to find his former self after a disturbing season last year, when he was suspended by his club at the onset of the inter-club cricketers' transfer.

"We are thinking of bringing a couple of good all-rounders from abroad. But, Mushfiq is not a bad choice to bat at number five and wicketkeeper Jah-tiaq to follow. Besides, lower

down the order, Mukul, Saiful and Saikat can also bat a bit," said Dipu.

Dipu, however, looked quite concerned about his bowling department. "We have a few disciplined bowlers. But, to tell you frankly, we are in need of a real penetrative fast bowler. Pakistani Shahid Saeed will open the bowling with Saiful. But you can hardly expect a good bounce from Saiful," said Dipu.

Saiful, who is living with a chronic injury on his bowling arm, lost his swing and pace, and can hardly bend his back for the last couple of years. But Kalabagan possess a good set of spinners. Sumit, who had a wonderful debut for the national team against the touring West Indies A with a haul of three wickets in a three-day match, will lead the three-man attack with Mukul, the most successful Kalabagan bowler with 27 wickets last season, and left-arm twister Sharfud-dowlah Ibne-Shahid Saikat.

Dipu argued that the introduction of 80-over matches in the league will not affect the players' performance as they are accustomed to limited-over games. "I believe, it still is a limited-over game," he said.

Elaborating the chances of other teams, Dipu said: "The championship will be a four-way battle. Kalabagan apart, Abahani and Brothers are the two strongest teams in the fray. I think Biman is the other contender for the title."

"Although many people are talking about Surjo Tarun, I have my reservation. They might have taken some good players. But I think they are not a balanced side," said Dipu.

The southpaw, however, did not rule out the chances of Mohammedan SC. "They might be the most affected team this year, but their bowling department is very strong. I think a couple of good batsmen in their ranks can change their face," said Dipu.

Hosts win Cox's Bazaar football

From Our Correspondent
COX'S BAZAAR, Dec 2: Sadar Thana lifted the invitational football championship of Cox's Bazaar District by defeating Ramu Thana 2-0 in the final at the local stadium today.

After a barren first half, Khokon scored both the goals for the winners in what was a see-saw match.

Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazaar, Ali Iman Mo-jumder, distributed prizes among the winners.

NBL v'ball

Bangladesh Police registered their third successive victory in the National Bank Premier Division volleyball league at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday, reports UNB.

Police defeated Bangladesh Bank Club 15-12, 8-15, 15-9, 15-9.

Meanwhile, Fire Service team made a good start in the First Division league beating Jiban Bima Corporation 15-7, 15-6, 15-13.

Meanwhile, Chand Textile qualified to play in next year's First Division league when they emerged the unbeaten champions of the Second Division league.

In their last match, Chand Textile trounced Patnars Club 15-5, 15-3, 15-6.

McGrath bowled by English rose

SYDNEY, Dec 2: Australian speedster Glenn McGrath, the scourge of England's batsmen, is to marry his English girlfriend, reports AFP.

McGrath said today he had proposed to 32-year-old Jane Steele just before England's seven-wicket debacle in the second Test in Perth which finished with two days to spare on Monday.

My manager has advised me not to say too much about it at this time except that we're very happy," the 28-year-old McGrath said.

The pair have dated for four years and McGrath helped comfort her after she had breast surgery to remove a benign lump.

Syed Mahboob leaves today

Syed Mahboob, the secretary general of the Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports and the general secretary of the Bangladesh Billiards & Snooker Federation will leave for Bangkok today to attend the Asian Games as the technical Official — Snooker appointed by the Bangkok Asian Games organising Committee.

He will also attend the General Assembly of the World Confederation of Billiards Sports scheduled to be held tomorrow in the Thai capital, says a press release.

Thorpe on the mend



PERTH, Dec 2 (Reuters/ Internet): England's cricketers received a much-needed boost on Wednesday when star batsman Graham Thorpe completed his first training session in over a week.

Thorpe missed England's seven-wicket loss to Australia in the second Ashes Test at Perth because of back pain but is hoping to return for the third Test starting in Adelaide next week.

The Surrey left-hander batted through a net session in Perth on Wednesday and is likely to play in a four-day match against Victoria state starting on Saturday.

Thorpe said his main worry was the effect the five-hour flight from Perth to Melbourne would have on his back after he aggravated the injury travelling from Brisbane to Perth.

"No-one really knows what goes wrong with backs from

Thorpe does play, the English management has decided to allow Graeme Hick to remain with the squad.

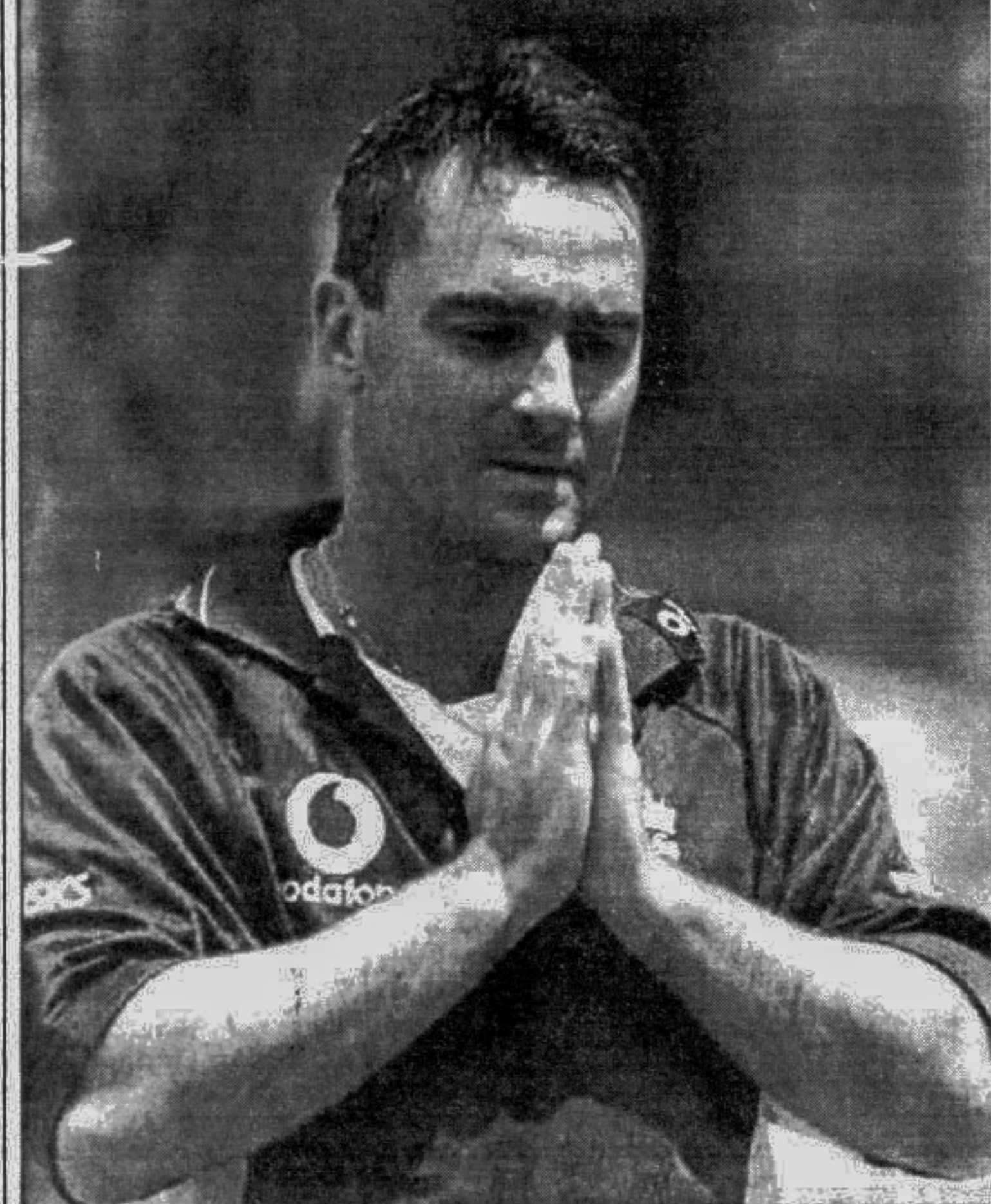
Hick was called in as a temporary replacement for Michael Atherton but ended up playing in the second test when Thorpe pulled out and top scored with 68.

Victoria have named a second-string team to play the tourists with Shane Warne, Damien Fleming, Matthew Elliott and Paul Reiffel all rested.

Warne's withdrawal has fuelled speculation that he may miss the entire Ashes series as he slowly recovers from shoulder surgery.

But the Australian leg-spinner said in a column with an English newspaper that he pulled out because there was nothing to be gained from playing.

"Why should I let the Poms have a go at me when I am honestly nothing like 100 per cent spot on with my bowling," Warne said.



GRAHAM THORPE

time to time and I'm in that dilemma. I just have to take each game as it comes," Thorpe said.

Regardless of whether or not

England's players have reacted angrily to criticism of their defeat in the second Test.

The players are particularly upset at comments by former

England captain Bob Willis, who said that England would probably lose against the Australian second XI.

"I don't reckon anyone cares what Bob Willis says," Thorpe said. "It's fine for those players to criticise if they want to, but they've had their day."

There are three Tests to go and the boys will be well up for the next three games."

Meanwhile, England manager Graham Gooch has refused to write off a side the Australian press has dubbed "Rabbit Stew" after its seven-wicket thrashing.

"The thing we have to believe is we played under-par in this Test and got beaten," Gooch said Tuesday.

"We can play a lot better than that and have to play a lot better than that," he added.

"We have to play at our best to compete with the best players in the world. We will talk to individuals and reinforce things but you can only put what you believe are the best policies in place and hopefully they can take that in and put it into practice."

Gooch feared their poor form may have been caused by over-training.

"Too much practice breeds mediocrity," was the surprising comment of a man who as a player forged a reputation as a fitness fanatic.

Gooch and coach David Lloyd told the squad to forget about cricket for two days before travelling to Melbourne.

England's only other bright spot from this Perth debacle was fast bowler Alex Tudor.

But Gooch was quick to play down claims he might turn into a world-beater.

"We are hoping he will continue to improve on this tour, which was the whole idea of bringing him in the first place," Gooch said.

"The boy did well but I don't want to go overboard about him or make any comparisons with anyone else," he added.

Tudor claimed five wickets in Perth but Gooch stressed the 21-year-old lacked stamina.

"It's no good bowling six overs at the speed of light and then 15 overs at military medium -- you have to be able to provide about 20 overs a day at the same pace," Gooch said.

But Gooch said his Perth performance did increase his chance of playing in the third Test.

"He is still a young lad with a lot to learn but he has certainly put himself up for selection in every game," Gooch said.

46 going to Bangkok today

Forty-six members of the 67-strong Bangladesh contingent for 13th Asian Games, leaves for Bangkok today, reports UNB.

The remaining members will proceed to the Thai capital the following week.

Vice-president of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) Faruq Ahmed Khan will lead the contingent.

Mamunur Rashid, captain of the hockey team, will bear the national flag during the march past on the opening day on Sunday.

The first batch includes swimming, hockey, boxing, weightlifting, golf and snooker teams. The remaining will make up of kabaddi and athletics teams.

The 38 Asiad sporting disciplines will be participated by more than 6,000 athletes from 42 countries.

The Bangkok-bound Bangladesh team comprises of 44 sportsmen, 15 team officials and 10 other officials, including five journalists, one photographer and a physician.

Of the eight participating disciplines, the two teams —

golf and snooker will participate at their own expense.

The hockey team: Mamunur Rashid (captain), Rafiqul Islam Kamal (vice captain), Issa Miah, Masudur Rahman Shuvo, Khurshid Alam, Rabiuddin Ahmed, Russel Khan, Jahangir Alam, Tutul Kumar, Nag, Musfa Miah, Mirazul Ahsan Miraz, Alamgir Alam, Shamsuzzaman, Ariful Haq, Prince, Ishiaq Ahmed Sapu and Ashiquzzaman.

Officials — Khawaza Rahmatullah (manager) and Ehtesham Sultan (coach).

Bangladesh hockey team was placed in Group B with China, India, South Korea and Singapore.

Bangladesh will play their first match against China on December 8, second on December 9 against South Korea, third against India on December 11 and fourth against Singapore on December 13.

The six-member swimming team: Abdur Razzak Khan, Kazi Monirul Islam, Niaz Ali and Abdul Hamid Ripon. Officials — Shahjahan Miji (manager) and Luo Ben-Jian (coach).

The boxing team: Biplabul Haq Biplob and Asadur Rah-

man Asad. Official — MA Matin.

The weightlifting team: Pradip Chandra Das and Bidyut Kumar Roy. Officials — Siddiqur Rahman (manager) and Jhang Jiang (coach).

The goal team: Saad Rahim Chowdhury, Syed Iqbal Azim, Shawatuzzaman and Saadiq Mohammad Monirul. Official — Shakil Kasem.

The snooker team: Mohammed Mufazzal Hossain and Sajjad Syed. Official-Sayedul Haq Majumdar (manager).

The Kabaddi team: Zahidul Islam, Tahirul Islam, Gayyum Sikdar, Hafizur Rahman, Ashraful Alam, Faruque Talukder, Shahidul Islam, Mir Zulhas, Badsha Miah and Ziaur Rahman. Official — Z Alam (manager) and Abdul Haq (coach).

The athletics team will compete in five events, 100, 200 sprint, 5000, 10,000 metres and long jump.

Officials — Shafigul Islam, Mahubul Alam, Eliasuddin and Bony Amin. Officials Ibrahim Chengis (manager) and Tian Zhao-Jhong (coach).

Jenny jolts her own record



COLLEGE STATION, Texas, Dec 2 (Reuters/ Internet): Jenny Thompson sent a strong message that she has no intention of stopping at the five Olympic gold medals by setting a world record in one event and an American record in another at the FINA World Cup swimming meet on Tuesday.

Thompson shattered her own short course world record in the 100 metres butterfly with a stunning time of 56.90 seconds. Her previous best of 57.79 was set at the 1997 Short Course World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden.

"This is incredible," said the 25-year-old world champion, who has begun training for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. "I knew I had a great swim in me but I never expected this."

Thompson, who simply left the field in her wake with teammate Ashley Tappin finishing a very distant second in 59.11, had to look at the scoreboard twice before she would believe what she was seeing.

"I thought the clock was wrong," she said. "I have no idea how I did that."

"If I can do that time now, just think what I can do when

I'm prepared to swim fast."

Six events later, she set an American record in the 50-metre freestyle, clocking 24.56 seconds. That broke another mark that had already belonged to her -- 24.78 set at that same



JENNY THOMPSON

meet in Sweden.

American Olympian Gary Hall returned to international competition with the help of a court order that allowed him to compete against FINA's wishes.

According to the sport's international governing body,

Hall had not fully served his three-month suspension for testing positive for marijuana more than six months ago.

Hall, 24, a double gold and silver medalist at the 1996 Olympics, finished 13th in the 100 metres freestyle and 11th in the 50-metre butterfly but said competing was the victory.

"I feel I have been punished enough. I'm just elated to be back in the pool," said Hall, who will swim his speciality event, the 50-metre freestyle, on Wednesday.

"Making it to the starting blocks was the real accomplishment for me today," added Hall, who failed a FINA doping test for a recreational substance on May 15.

"I did have to contest this in court late Monday night and very early Tuesday morning, so I'm not running on much sleep here. It makes it difficult to concentrate on swimming, which is what I'm here for," he said.

Germany's Franziska Van Almsick showed that she is fully recovered from a motorcycle accident last year by winning the 200 freestyle in 1:58.07.

The third stop of the 12-meet World Cup series concludes Wednesday night.



Riot police escort the Juventus team bus to the hotel in Istanbul after the Turin club arrived in the Turkish city yesterday.

—Internet photo