Sydney Games

NBC plans 330 hrs

WASHINGTON, June 23 (AP): Ready for some handball? How about fencing, table tennis and badminton?

When NBC turns on its cameras for the 2000 Olympics, the focus will be on the "traditional theme" of big sports, big time.

But because of the US network's cable branches, in-depth coverage will extend to virtually all sports, even the ones that have been snubbed before.

"The cable really opens up what has not been shown in the past," NBC Sports president Dick Ebersol told the US Olympic Committee's executive committee Tuesday.

That includes women's soccer and softball, both all but bypassed in the 1996 Atlanta Games.

NBC plans 330 hours — double previous levels — of Olympic programming on its three outlets — 160 hours on the main network, 170 on the two cable channels. Ebersol said more than half the network programming would be in prime time.

MSNBC, a news and information channel, will carry the Olympics from during the day, with CNBC, a financial news programmer, taking over after the markets close.

The main network will again focus on track, gymnastics, basketball, swimming and other major sports, with the cable outlets carrying the more unfamiliar events.

NBC has paid 3.6 billion dollars for US Olympic TV rights through 2008 and is the biggest commercial partner of the International Olympic Committee.

Ebersol, an unabashed fan and scholar of the Games, has defended the committee during the 7-month-old corruption scandal.

In another matter, the USOC heard that the IOC had placed a three-year limit on reviewing results from the Games that might have been tainted by drug use.

Nonetheless, USOC president Bill Hybl told IOC vice president Antia DeFrantz that he wanted to press demands that the 1976 US women's 400-metre medley relay be awarded duplicate gold medals after finishing second to an East German squad since fund to have benefited from illegal drugs.

And other executive committee members expressed dismay that the IOC would place limits on retroactive drug sanctions if new evidence came to light.

"I think the biggest deterrent to an athlete using drugs is the fear of reprisal 10, 12, 15 years down the road," said Bill Stapleton, the head of the USOC's athletes advisory council." What is the IOC's rationale?"

McDowell Cup begins today

CALCUTTA, June 23: Title aspirants Mohun Bagan will clash with Mohamedan Sporting in the inaugural match of the McDowell Cup football tournament beginning at the Salt Lake stadium here tomorrow, reports PTI.

All the top teams of the city will be vying for the top honour in the six-team championship which is seen as a curtain-raiser to the grueling football season in the city.

Mohun Bagan, Mohammedan Sporting and Tata Football Academy make up Group A while Group B comprises East Bengal Club, Tollygunge Aggragami and Eastern Railway, joint secretary of the Indian Football Association (IFA) Ranjit Gupta told a press conference here last night.

The two top teams in the group will qualify for the semi-finals scheduled to be played on July 1 and July 2, while the final is slated for July 4.

The winner of the tournament, sponsored by McDowell and Company, will receive a purse of 1.5 lakh rupees and the runners up 75,000 rupees.

Gupta said Eastern Railway had qualified for the tournament by winning the Celebration Cup which was the qualifying round.

O'Brien's manager seeks wild card

EUGENE, Oregon, June 23: Dan O'Brien's manager, seeking a way for the injured decathlon star to compete in August's World Championships, has asked the IAAF to give all active world record-holders a "wild card" into the competition, reports Reuters.

The proposal would expand the free entry the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) now grants defending World Champions and could affect not only O'Brien, but such world record-holders as Bernard Barmasai, Jonathan Edwards, Colin Jackson, Butch Reynolds and Jurgen Schult.

O'Brien, the 1996 Olympic gold medalist and former three time world champion, is suffering from tendinitis in his left knee that will keep him out of this weekend's US trials for the world championships.

"Doctors think they can clear it up fairly quickly, but not quickly enough for him to compete this weekend," Rick Sloan, O'Brien's coach, said.

The world record-holder also missed the 1997 US and World Championships through injury but rebounded last year with the best decathlon score of the season, 8,755 points, to win the Goodwill Games.

"It would be a shame if they would draw a line around defending world champions and not consider some plausible mechanism for world record-holders such as Dan to compete," said Brad Hunt, who represents O'Brien and a number of other top US athletes including double Olympic champion Michael Johnson.

Both sides of *Primera Liga*

MADRID, June 23(Reuters/Internet): Kevin Fylan picks out some winners and losers over the course of an epic Spanish first division season that finally came to an end on Sunday after 10 months.

It's been a good year for:

BARCELONA: Louis van Gaal, torn to pieces by the baying Spanish media pack after an early exit in the Champions League and some dodgy domestic form, had the last laugh as Barcelona went on to clinch the Spanish league title by 11 points in their centenary season.

The club's three other professional teams, roller hockey, handball and basketball, weighed in with league titles of their own and to cap it all, Barcelona signed a five-year TV deal worth a staggering 400 million dollars. That should keep them in assorted Dutch internationals for the foreseeable future.

DELY VALDES: Last year's winner of the slightly less than prestigious Lobster of Iron award for top scorer at Oviedo has once again topped the charts at his club with 19. The Panamanian international is clearing a space on top of the TV for his second crustacean keepsake in as many years.

RIVALDO: Barcelona's Brazilian striker has been the outstanding player in Europe this season. Twenty-four league goals -- from a position stuck out on the left wing -- and countless assists certainly made him the most feared attacker in Spain. If that weren't enough, the softly spoken Brazilian was picked out by Pele as the best player in the world. High praise indeed.

MALLORCA: Winners of the Spanish supercup, runners-up in the European Cup Winners' Cup and fourth place in the first division -- enough to secure a place in the Champions League next season. Not bad for their ragbag collection of bargain buys and loan signings, coached by the inspirational Hector Cuper. Their big test will come next year when they have to do without Cuper, who is expected to sign for Valencia next week.

SEXUAL EQUALITY: Carolina Domenech blew the whistle on the macho world of football as she became the first female referee in the history of the professional game in Spain. Interestingly enough, it was only the foreign media that made gushing reference to Domenech's blue eyes and long blonde hair as Spanish newspapers concentrated doggedly on the important business of the football.

CHRISTIAN VIERI: The Italian-born, Australian-raised striker started the season as the only cricket fan at Atletico Madrid before falling out with Arrigo Sacchi and into a $28 million move to Lazio. After scoring in the European Cup Winners Cup final he then got that record $50 million transfer to Juventus but more was still to come for Vieri, whose beloved Australia won a crushing victory in the cricket World Cup final against Pakistan on Sunday.

It's been a bad year for:

REAL MADRID COACHES: The uncompromising club president Lorenzo Sanz has got through four of them in a bloody 12 months at the Bernabeu. Jupp Heynckes, discovering to his cost that winning the European Cup was not enough to keep him his job, was the first to go. Jose Antonio Camacho then lasted 22 days of the pre-season before walking out, to be followed by Guus Hiddink.

The Dutch World Cup coach also won some silverware -- the World Club Cup against Vasco da Gama -- and was duly sent the same way as Heynckes. That brought in John Toshack, who failed to win anything, although Real have made it to the Champions League.

JAVIER CLEMENTE: The career of the man who once famously mooned at a pack of photographers is now on the wane. He started the year as national team coach, but after a disastrous World Cup and a humiliating 3-2 defeat to Cyprus he finally bowed to the inevitable. He then answered the call at Real Betis but failed to bring the best out of Denilson, Finidi George and co and left with his tail between his legs after Sunday's final match -- a 4-1 defeat to his former club Athletic Bilbao.

CARLOS MONTOYA: The likeable Colombian international keeper confirmed his reputation as the unluckiest man in Spanish football as he completed a hat-trick of relegation campaigns. Montoya has spent the last three years experiencing the troughs of the beautiful game, going down with Extremadura, Merida and now Tenerife. It will be a brave club indeed that takes him on next season.

JESUS GIL: The Atletico Madrid boss and politico, who heads up the modestly named GIL party, has suffered on and off the field this season. The man who has hired and fired 22 coaches in his 12 years in charge kept up his average by getting through three this season: Radomir Antic, Arrigo Sacchi and caretaker Carlos Aguiar. Far more seriously, he was forced to spend a week in jail earlier this year on fraud charges and state prosecutors are calling for a 34-year prison term.

EURO LEAGUE STANDINGS

LONDON, June 23 (Reuters) : Following are the standings and leading goal scorers in England, Spain and Italy :

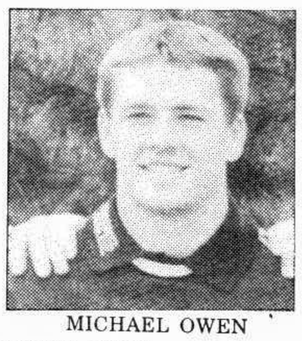
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Manchester United	38	22	13	3	80	37	79
2. Arsenal	38	22	12	4	59	17	78
3. Chelsea	38	20	15	3	57	30	75
4. Leeds United	38	18	13	7	62	34	67
5. West Ham United	38	16	9	13	44	53	57
6. Aston Villa	38	15	10	13	51	46	55
7. Liverpool	38	15	9	14	68	49	54
8. Derby County	38	13	13	12	40	45	52
9. Middlesbrough	38	12	15	11	48	54	51
10. Leicester City	38	12	13	13	40	46	49
11. Tottenham Hotspur	38	11	14	13	47	50	47
12. Sheffield Wednesday	38	13	7	18	41	42	46
13. Newcastle United	38	11	13	14	48	54	46
14. Everton	38	11	10	17	42	47	43
15. Coventry City	38	11	9	18	39	51	42
16. Wimbledon	38	10	12	16	40	63	42
17. Southampton	38	11	8	19	37	64	41
18. Charlton Athletic	38	8	12	18	41	56	36
19. Blackburn Rovers	38	7	14	17	38	52	35
20. Nottingham Forest	38	7	9	22	35	69	30

Note: Manchester United champions. Charlton, Blackburn and Nottingham Forest relegated

TOP SCORERS

PLAYER	GOALS
Yorke (Man Utd)	16
Owen (Liverpool)	**18**
Cole (Man Utd)	15
Aloisi (Coventry)	18
Ward (Blackburn)	17
Cresswell (Sheff Wed)	16
Shearer (Newcastle)	12
Ricard (Middlesbrough)	15
Fowler (Liverpool)	14
Anelka (Arsenal)	15
Hasselbaink (Leeds)	15
Solskjaer (Man Utd)	12
Dublin (Aston Villa)	14
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	11
Cottee (Leicester)	9



MICHAEL OWEN

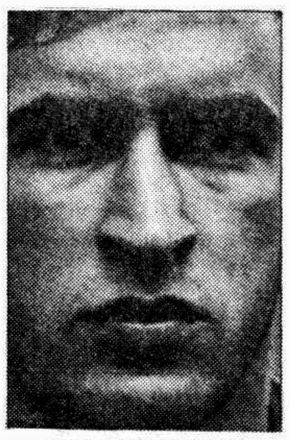
SPANISH *PRIMERA LIGA*

Team	P	W	L	T	Pts
Barcelona	38	24	7	7	79
Real Madrid	38	21	12	5	68
Mallorca	38	20	12	6	66
Valencia	38	19	11	8	65
Celta Vigo	38	17	8	13	64
Deportivo Coruna	38	17	9	12	63
Espanyol	38	16	9	13	61
Athletic Bilbao	38	17	12	9	60
Real Zaragoza	38	16	13	9	57
Real Sociedad	38	14	12	12	54
* Real Betis	38	15	16	7	52
Atletico Madrid	38	12	16	10	46
* Valladolid	38	12	17	9	45
Oviedo	38	11	15	12	45
Racing Santander	38	10	16	12	42
Alaves	38	11	20	7	40
Extremadura	38	9	17	12	39
Villarreal	38	8	18	12	36
Tenerife	38	7	18	13	34
Salamanca	38	7	25	6	27

Note : * Spanish Football Federation ruled Valladolid must forfeit Round 17 victory over Real Betis for fielding a fifth non-European Union player. Betis was awarded three points and a 3-0 victory.

TOP SCORERS

PLAYER	GOALS
Raul Gonzalez (Real Madrid)	25
Rivaldo (Barcelona)	24
Claudio Lopez (Valencia)	21
Dely Valdes (Oviedo)	19
Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid)	19
Savo Milosevic (Real Zaragoza)	17
Darko Kovacevic (Real Sociedad)	16
Ismael Urzaiz(Athletic Bilbao)	16
Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona)	15
Turu Flores (Deportivo Coruna)	14
Lubo Penev (Celta Vigo)	14
Roy Makaay (Tenerife)	14
Gheorghe Craioveanu (Villarreal)	13
Juan Sanchez (Celta Gigo)	13
Alen Peternac (Valladolid)	13
Victor Sanchez (Racing Santander)	12
Dani Garcia (Mallorca)	12
Philip Cocu (Barcelona)	12
Manuel Alfaro (Villarreal)	12
Leonardo Biagini (Mallorca)	11
Luis Enrique Martinez (Barcelona)	11
Finidi George (Real Betis)	11
Oli Alvarez (Real Betis)	10
Pauleta Recende (Deportivo Coruna)	10
Adrian Ilie (Valencia)	10
Julen Guerrero (Athletic Bilbao)	10
Haim Revivo (Celta Vigo)	9
Jose Mari Romero (Atletico Madrid)	9
Fernando Correa (Atletico Madrid)	8
Juninho (Atletico Madrid)	8
Valery Karpin (Celta Vigo)	8
Paul Tamudo (Espanyol)	8
Pedro Munitis (Racing Santander)	8
Djalminha (Deportivo Coruna)	8
Miguel Angel Angulo (Valencia)	8



RAUL GONZALEZ

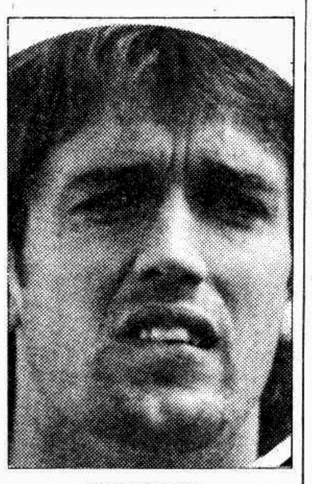
ITALIAN *SERIE A*

Team	P	W	D	I	F	A	Pts
1. AC Milan	34	20	10	4	59	34	70
2. Lazio	34	20	9	5	65	31	69
3. Fiorentina	33	16	8	10	55	41	56
4. Parma	34	15	10	9	55	36	55
5. AS Roma	34	15	9	10	69	49	54
6. Juventus	34	15	9	10	42	36	54
7. Udinese	34	16	6	12	52	52	54
8. Inter Milan	34	13	7	14	59	54	46
9. Bologna	34	11	11	12	44	47	44
10. Bari	34	9	15	10	39	44	42
11. Venezia	34	11	9	14	38	45	42
12. Cagliari	34	11	8	15	49	50	41
13. Piacenza	34	11	8	15	48	49	41
14. Perugia	34	11	6	17	43	61	39
15. Salernitana	34	10	8	16	37	51	38
16. Sampdoria	34	9	10	15	38	55	37
17. Vicenza	34	8	9	17	27	47	33
18. * Empoli	34	4	10	20	26	63	20

Note : * Empoli deducted two points for attempted match fixing.

TOP SCORERS

PLAYER	GOALS
Batistuta (Fiorentina)	21
Amoroso (Udinese)	21
Bierhoff (AC Milan)	18
Delvecchio (AS Roma)	18
Muzzi (Cagliari)	16
Crespo (Parma)	16
Signori (Bologna)	15
Ronaldo (Inter Milan)	15
Salas (Lazio)	15
S Inzaghi (Piacenza)	15
F Inzaghi (Juventus)	13
Di Vaio (Salernitana)	13
Vieri (Lazio)	12
Leonardo (AC Milan)	12
Sergio (AS Roma)	12
Totti (AS Roma)	12
Montella (Sampdoria)	12
Maniero (Venezia)	12
Masinga (Bari)	11
Di Napoli (Empoli)	11
Sosa (Udinese)	11
Recoba (Venezia)	11
R Costa (Fiorentina)	10
Mancini (Lazio)	10
Nakata (Perugia)	10
Otero (Vicenza)	10



BATISTUTA

Gamarra going to Atletico

MADRID, June 23: Paraguayan international defender Carlos Alberto Gamarra agreed a four-year pre-contract Tuesday with Spanish First Division side Atletico Madrid, reports AFP.

Gamarra, who currently plays his club football with Brazilian outfit Corinthians, will formally sign at the end of the Copa America, which takes place between June 29 and July 18 in Paraguay.

The fee is thought to be in the region of eight million dollars.

Gamarra said: "There is total agreement. I am an Atletico Madrid player. We have signed a pre-contract and at the end of the Copa America the agreement will become binding."

Italian *Serie A* outfit Roma had also been thought to be in the running for the player.

Gamarra has also played for Paraguayan outfit Cerro Porteno, Brazilian side Porto Alegre and Benfica.

Okuno joins Benfica

LISBON, June 23: Nigeria international defender Gbenga Okunowo has joined Benfica on a one-year loan from Barcelona, the Portuguese club's president Joao Vale Azevedo said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Lothar to part with Bayern

MUNICH, June 23: Veteran German libero Lothar Matthaeus confirmed today that he will quit German champions Bayern Munich and the German league this winter to play in the United States, reports AFP.

The 38-year-old former world-player-of-the-year has already signed an open ended deal with the New York/New Jersey MetroStars which allows him to decide freely when he leaves for the United States.

"My plans are that it will be this winter," he told the German daily newspaper Bild.

"I intend to take holidays in January, continue to train with Bayern in February and then in March begin the American season."

German coach Erich Ribbeck has assured Matthaeus that he can play in Euro 2000 even if he leaves to play club football in the United States.

Matthaeus confirmed that he will play one last time for Bayern in the Olympic Stadium on December 15 against newly promoted side Arminia Bielefeld, before bidding farewell to the Bundesliga three days later following the clash against Werder Bremen.

Capped 136 times, Matthaeus could well beat the caps record of Sweden's Thomas Revelli, who played 143 times for the national side, should Germany make it to next year's finals or even as early as October 9 when Germany play Turkey in a Euro 2000 qualifier.

Griguol new Betis coach

SEVILLE, Spain, June 23: Spanish First Division outfit Real Betis appointed Argentinian Carlos Griguol as their new coach on Wednesday -- he replaces former national boss Javier Clemente who was sacked following a disappointing season, reports AFP.

The 64-year-old Argentine, who had spells at Rosario, Gimnasia y Esgrima and River Plate, was chosen after the Spanish Football Federation rejected Betis' first choice Griguol's compatriot Americo Gallego.

Griguol, affectionately known as 'The Old Man', had previously been linked with replacing compatriot Hector Cuper at Real Mallorca, who is expected to move to Valencia, but the Cup Winners' Cup finalists finally plumped for another Argentinian Roberto Gomez earlier this month.

Under Clemente, who has had a miserable year having been sacked from the Spanish post when results failed to pick up following their first round exit at the World Cup finals, Betis finished a lowly 11th with their Brazilian import Denilson failing to justify his multi-million dollar price tag.

Troubled Forest lose Scholar

NOTTINGHAM, England, June 23: Crisis-ridden English First Division side Nottingham Forest received another blow on Wednesday when Irving Scholar quit the club's board after growing impatient with the delay in appointing a new manager, reports AFP.

Scholar, a former chairman of Tottenham Hotspur before selling out to Alan Sugar and Terry Venables, was also disillusioned by the lack of board consultation by chairman Eric Barnes.

"We have had no board meeting for more than four weeks. Eric Barnes has not spoken to me for three weeks. How on earth can you run a company like that?," Scholar said.

"I sent a memo a week ago seeking clarification on the position of the manager. I have not had the courtesy of a reply. I decided enough was enough," he added.

Scholar was also angry that he had not been consulted over the possibility that former England coach and Spurs playmaker Glenn Hoddle would be taking over at the club from the recently retired Ron Atkinson, who failed to save them from relegation from the Premiership.

"No-one has asked me about Glenn Hoddle, which I find a bit strange given that I have known him well for nearly 20 years," he said.

Scholar, who along with partner Nigel Wray made promises of huge investment in players which the fans felt had not been delivered on and led to Wray resigning in the middle of last season, also bemoaned the fact that Forest are still managerless less than a week before their players are due to report back for pre-season training.

"Once last season finished a new manager should have been in place within a fortnight. In this division planning an organisation are absolutely vital," he said.

"Forest are suffering from a self-inflicted paralysis and I did not want to be associated with it any more," he added.

Bakayoko Marseille s

MARSEILLE, France, June 23: English Premiership side Everton's Ivory Coast international striker Ibrahima Bakayoko has signed a five-year contract with French First Division side Marseille, his new club's coach Rolland Courbis told Tuesday, reports AFP.

Courbis said the deal was worth 4 million pounds and admitted it "had been an effort on the financial front".

Bakayoko, 22, arrived in France from his native country in 1995 and played for another top flight side Montpellier.

He joined Everton in the season just finished but failed to establish a regular first team place.

Waddle signals SOS

UNDATED, June 23(Mail/Internet): Chris Waddle last night warned that British players could be squeezed out of the Premiership by the influx of foreigners.

The former England forward, who was one of the country's few successful footballing exports, is calling for quota restrictions on overseas players here.

His surprise outburst was triggered by this week's 3 million pounds deal that swept France's World Cup-winning captain Didier Deschamps into the international set at Chelsea. Waddle said: 'The way the game's going, maybe we won't see a British player coming down the tunnel in a Premier League team in three or four years' time.

'That's worrying because of the implications for our international teams.'

Waddle, who spent three of his best years as a player in France with Marseille, added: 'I think we must go back to three foreign players per club. People got excited at first about them all coming in but now, for the good of the game, that rule should be brought back.'

The former Newcastle and Tottenham star frequently travels to watch prospective signings in his job on the staff of Sheffield Wednesday, another of his former clubs. But he insists that the future of British football is being hindered by the foreign flood.

'I don't see anybody learning off the foreigners,' he explained. 'We watch them and admire them but we still haven't got any skill coming through, no flair. All the best players in the Premiership for skill level are foreign.

'I go back to 1990 when I was last involved with the England team. People like Paul Gascoigne, John Barnes and Peter Beardsley had so much skill.

'Now I look at young players coming through at Under 21 level and I haven't seen a lot of them who can pick the ball up, run at the opposition and take them on.'

Waddle's comments come on the day Soccernet exclusively reveals that up to 700 players from British clubs will lose their income within the next seven days if they cannot find a new club.

That is the staggering cost of the Bosman ruling, which has led to the massive influx of cheap imports from Europe. The figure for foreign players in the Premiership alone now stands at 175.

Now a whole swathe of homegrown professionals will not have contracts renewed by their clubs. Those contracts expire on June 30, the day before the few big winners under the Bosman ruling - high-profile free agents like Steve McManaman and Mark Bosnich - adopt millionaire lifestyles at their new clubs, Real Madrid and Manchester United respectively.

Stars like McManaman and Bosnich have been able to hawk their wares around Europe, safe in the knowledge that they are in a seller's market and can weigh the pocketful of silver offered by one club against that of another.

But in the Nationwide League, the situation has become so desperate that players are attempting to undercut each other in order to earn professional contracts.

Professional Footballers' Association deputy chief executive Brendon Batson agrees with Waddle and calls for European clubs to act together to force a limit on the number of overseas players in domestic leagues.

Batson said: 'Football should have a united front to say that we need to protect our domestic talent. Every time a club looks abroad, there is a lost opportunity for an English player.'

Agents like Neil Fewings, of First Artists, will spend the next week placing on their books the remaining players who are without clubs.

Fewings said: 'It's becoming increasingly difficult for players in the lower divisions who are coming out of contract. The Bosman ruling has been beneficial to some players but they are usually at the top end of the scale.

'This year there are even players at Premier League clubs who are finding difficulty in finding clubs at the standard and financial levels they wish to play at.

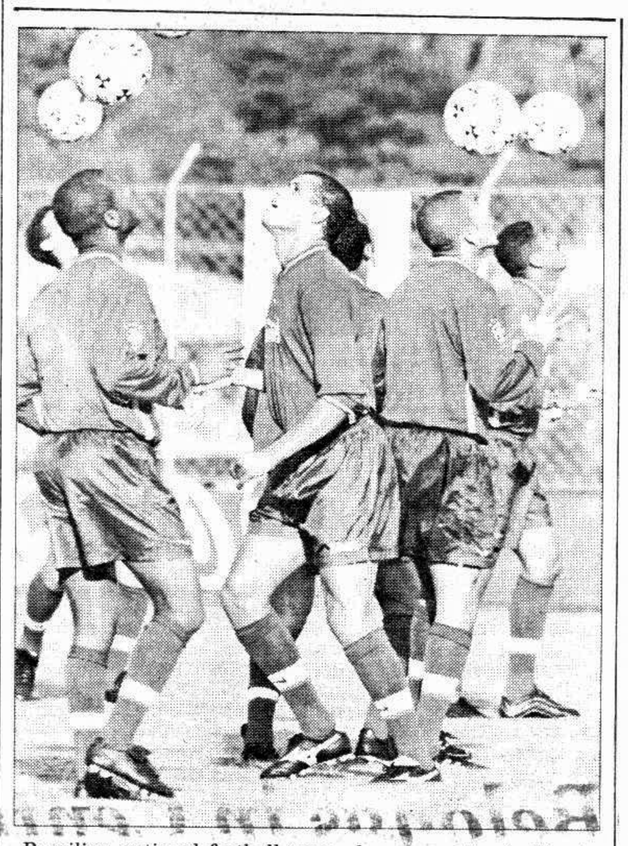
'A lot of them have set their lifestyles to the wages they have been earning. There's a misconception among players that coming out of contract is going to be a financial bonanza for them.

'In the cold light of day, they are finding that the situation is very different. At the blunter end of the market, players are finding they are not getting the vast signing-on fees they expected and managers can afford to be more choosy than in the past.

'The filter-down effect has taken place. There are a lot of players who have played in the Premiership who are now looking to clubs lower down. It's not particularly difficult to place those players.

'The experience they bring from their Premiership days adds to their marketability. But whether the contracts at clubs lower down are acceptable to them is another matter.

'In the short term, the situation can only get worse.'



Brazilian national football team players practice in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil on June 22. The team is preparing for the Copa America championship which starts in Paraguay on June 29. —AFP photo

SOCCER SIDELINES

NEW YORK, June 23 (AP): The Women's World Cup is setting records for ticket sales for a women's sporting event.

Marla Messing, president of the organizing committee, said Tuesday that the tournament had sold more than a half-million tickets. The first-round doubleheader in Chicago featuring Brazil vs Italy and the United States vs Nigeria is sold out.

"We have exceeded our greatest expectations," Messing said Tuesday. "To average more than 19,000 fans at the three non-USA doubleheaders is the strongest statement we could make that the Women's World Cup has been embraced by this country."

SWEDES AT WHITE HOUSE

The Swedish team took some time off from practice Tuesday to visit the White House. The Swedes toured the White House for about an hour. When asked about the tour, Sweden's Malin Andersson said it was "real nice."

The team also visited the Lincoln Monument and plans to do some more sightseeing in Washington. They'll have to see how it fits into their busy training schedule, though.

The Swedes face Australia at Jack Kent Cooke Stadium on Wednesday. Swedish goalkeeper Ulrika Karlson was confident the team could take Australia.

"We should beat them," she said. "It's going to be difficult, but we should take them."

INJURIES

It's still unsure if Canadian forward Silvana Burtini will be able to play in Wednesday's match with Norway.

"I'm looking to play, because obviously that's what I came here for," said Burtini. "But right now it's just day-to-day and I'll have to wait see."

Canada have a big challenge against defending champions Norway.

Burtini aggravated a hamstring injury when she scored the only Canadian goal in the opening game tie with Japan. She was kept out of practice on Monday, only jogging slowly around the practice field at George Mason University.

China's top player, Weng Sun, also injured her leg in the first game against Sweden. When the Chinese team arrived in Portland, Oregon, to prepare for Wednesday's match against Ghana, Weng was limping.

As China's practice sessions are closed, it's unclear if Weng's injury kept her from working out.

DEFENDING NORWAY

Even though Norway are the defending Women's World Cup champions the US team is getting a lot more media attention. So how do the Norwegians feel about all the focus being placed on the United States?

"It's OK," Norway coach Per-Mathias Hogmo said. "I think it's natural that we play in the US and the US are getting a lot of attention."

Marianne Pettersen, the Norwegian forward, said the US team being in the spotlight might be a good thing.

"I think it's OK, because in a way they get all the pressure and we become sort of the outsiders," she said.

Hogmo was confident his team's style of play will woo fans.

"We play attractive, attacking football," he said, "It must be OK to see Norway play."

AUSTRALIAN US HOMECOMING

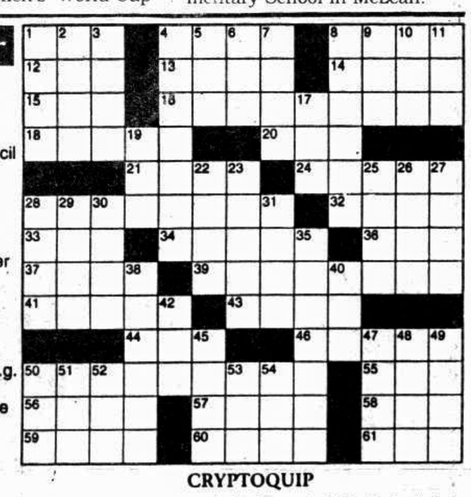
Wednesday's Australia-Sweden match in Jack Kent Cooke Stadium in Landover, Maryland, will be a homecoming for Australian forward Julie Murray.

Murray lived in nearby McLean, Virginia, from 1979-1982 while her father worked at the Australian Embassy. The Mathildas' forward also started her soccer career in the United States, playing for an intramural team at Chesterbrook Elementary School in McLean.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS
1 Chatter
4 Approaching
8 Everything else
12 Commit perjury
13 Bread spread
14 Pennsylvania port
15 Pindaric piece
16 End
18 Serving girl of yore
20 "Foucault's Pendulum" author
21 Fights the clock
24 Personnel officer
28 Split into layers
32 Took the bus
33 Lumberjack's need
34 Disgusting
36 Hr. part
37 Fix
39 Appoint
41 Handy work?
43 Cuban money
44 Theater initials
46 Pitch
50 Reach a peak
55 Mamie's man
56 Swedish furniture company
57 Burn a bit
58 — es Salaam
59 Osso buco base
60 Dumbo's wings
61 Turn green

DOWN
1 Radiate
2 Staffer
3 "How've you —?"
4 Zilch
5 — -de-France
6 Teutonic: abbr.
7 Where the heart is
8 Impressionism co-founder
9 Epoch
10 Perch
11 Ball-bearing item
17 JFK's pronoun
19 Plato's X
22 Make
23 Condescend
25 Actress Downey
26 Wield a blue pencil
27 Actress Russo
28 Mary's follower
29 Skating maneuver
30 Carte
31 Salinger girl
35 The Dionne quints, e.g.
38 Skinny?
40 Japanese drama
42 Avail of Vail
45 "The Raven" opener
47 Lorna Doone's love
48 Suitable
49 "The Way We —"
50 XIII octupled
51 Guitar's kin
52 Meadow
53 Triumphant cry
54 Pitch



Solution time: 28 mins.

R	O	O	K		B	O	D	E		H	I	T
A	L	V	A		A	M	E	N		E	A	R
H	E	A	R	T	L	A	N	D		A	M	I
			R	A	I	N		G	A	R	B	O
C	O	H	A	N			P	A	R	T		
O	R	E	S		C	L	A	M	B	A	K	E
O	D	A		G	O	O	S	E		C	O	N
P	O	R	T	R	A	Y	S		C	H	O	C
		T	O	I	L			C	R	E	P	E
L	O	F	T	S		G	A	S	A			
I	V	E		H	E	A	R	T	B	U	R	N
M	E	L		A	L	I	T		B	L	U	E
A	N	T		M	I	N	E		Y	U	R	T

Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP

M D D C U J Q I L J K V I A J L X A C K W L G Q C C D Y M A V M W I O X D V M Y C K J J K Y M U X L Q L M A V O X G Q I L .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CROOK WHO STOLE MY MILK WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTARDY?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals B

The Cryptoquip 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.