

Seedorf not Real's anymore?

MADRID, Aug 5: Real Madrid announced on Wednesday that Dutch star Clarence Seedorf has been sold, reports AFP.

But his destination remained a mystery following the announcement, made on the Spanish club's in-house television channel.

It said an official announcement would be made on Thursday.

The 23-year-old attacking midfielder, who joined Real from Italian side Sampdoria in 1996, is expected to command a price tag of 22 million dollars, according to the Spanish press.

Having earlier declared that Seedorf was not for sale, Real president Lorenzo Sanz changed his tune on Tuesday, saying that no one was untouchable.

More bad news for Bayern

BONN, Aug 5: German champions Bayern Munich will have to start the new season without their major signing Paulo Sergio, reports Reuters.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said the 30-year-old Brazilian midfielder who joined from AS Roma for 12 million marks (6.60 million dollars), underwent groin surgery and would be unavailable when Bayern play Hamburg SV in their opening match on August 14.

Last season's European Cup finalists were already without three players in goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, playmaker Stefan Effenberg and defender Samuel Kuffour, all injured.

There is good news for Bayern as well as midfielder Mario Basler, who had been sidelined by back pain, should make his comeback when they play Eintracht Frankfurt in a warm-up game today.

French defender Bixente Lizarazu and Brazilian striker Elber, who missed the previous season's last stretch because of serious knee injuries, have both resumed training and should soon be back in action.

Kiefer pulls out of Davis Cup

BERLIN, Aug 5: German number one Nicolas Kiefer has pulled out of the German Davis Cup squad to meet Romania next month following clashes with German tennis star Boris Becker, it was reported here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The world number 17 informed German Davis Cup captain Carl-Uwe Steeb that because of the rocky relationship with Becker he was unavailable to play in the World Group qualifying round on September 24/26.

Brown shines for Surrey

LONDON, Aug 5 (Internet report): Alison Brown's third County Championship century of the season put leaders Surrey in a strong position against Glamorgan on the second day at The Foster's Oval today.

Surrey were 301 for eight at lunch - a lead of 200 - with Bicknell (50n) and Saqlain Mushtaq (2n).

Brown received superb support from Martin Bicknell, the pair sharing a stand of 99 in 28 overs for the eighth wicket.

Brown, 60 not out overnight, was in excellent form, square-driving Jacques Kallis for four in the second over of the day.

But he had to watch from the other end as wicketkeeper Jonathan Batty missed an attempted pull and was hit under the right eye by a Simon Jones delivery which rebounded off his helmet peak.

Batty had to retire hurt on his overnight score of nought and was later taken to St Thomas' Hospital for treatment.

In no way did Bicknell look outclassed by Brown, the Surrey pace bowler playing shots worthy of a top-order batsman.

He gave just the one chance, when on 31 he turned a delivery from England off-spinner Robert Croft to short-leg but Alun Evans failed to cling on to the catch. At that stage Surrey were 252 for seven in the 68th over.

Brown's century came off 115 balls and included one six and 12 fours. It was his 21st first-class hundred.

He then struck Croft for a magnificent six over long-off. But going for another big hit off Croft he holed out to Steve James at deep midwicket for 124. In all he had faced 166 balls and hit two sixes and 13 fours.

Bicknell kept going and his fifty came off 94 balls and included six fours.

At Headingley, Gavin Hamilton hit his third half-century in consecutive matches as Yorkshire built steadily on their commanding lead over Worcestershire.

The start was delayed for 80 minutes by rain, Yorkshire re-summing with a lead of 186 with four wickets standing.

Rafter advances

MONTREAL, Aug 5: Australian star Patrick Rafter opened his du Maurier Open, Title defence with a 46-minute, 6-0, 6-2 victory over American Alex O'Brien, reports AP.

With the victory Wednesday, the top-seeded Australian advanced to a third-round match with Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic, who beat Australia's Jason Stoltenberg 3-6, 6-1, 7-6(7-5).

Third-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia bounced Canada's top singles player, Daniel Nestor, 6-4, 6-4.

Del Piero back in business



CESENA, Italy, Aug 5: Juventus, inspired by returning striker Alessandro Del Piero, emerged as the biggest winners after Wednesday's Intertoto Cup action on Wednesday, destroying Russian side Rostselmash Rostov 5-1, reports AFP.

Filippo Inzaghi grabbed a hat-trick for the Italian side as they reached the fifth round and completed a 9-1 aggregate win.

But all eyes were on Del Piero as he made his comeback after a nine-month absence following a knee ligament injury.

The striker came on in the 55th minute, receiving an ovation from the crowd, and sealed Juventus' joy with a goal of his own in the 76th minute, slotting home a right-footed shot.

Inzaghi opened his account with a 34th-minute penalty and added two more goals - the second set up by Del Piero - during a five-minute spell midway through the second half.

"I'm very happy, I have been waiting for this moment for so long," Del Piero said.

"I'm hoping to get back to my best progressively - I'm still very rusty."



Intertoto Cup fourth round second leg results on Wednesday: At Warsaw, Polonia Warsaw (Pol) 1

(Dziewicki 56) Metz (Fra) 1 (Saha 89)

Metz win 6-2 on aggregate

At Lubbeck, Germany

Hamburg (Ger) 4 (Mahdavia 37, 57, Praeger 64, Hashemian 82) Trabzonspor (Tur) 1 (Hami 69)

Hamburg win 6-3 on aggregate

At Vienna

Austria Vienna (Aut) 2 (Mayrleb 25, 40) Rennes (Fra) 2 (Le Roux 87, Nonda 90)

Rennes win 4-2 on aggregate

At Montpellier, France

Montpellier (Fra) 3 (Sorlin 29, Delays 70, Loko 80-pen) Duisburg (Ger) 0

Montpellier win 4-1 on aggregate

At Heerenveen

SC Heerenveen (Ned) 0 West Ham United (Eng) 1 (Wanchope 26)

West Ham United win 2-0 on aggregate

At Cesena, Italy

Juventus (Ita) 5 (Inzaghi 34-pen, 64, 68, Tacchinardi 49, Del Piero 76) Rostselmash Rostov (Rus) 1 (Duyun 38)

Juventus win 9-1 on aggregate



Montpellier's Nicolac Ouedec (R) and Duisburg's Tontin are both entangled after falling over during their Intertoto Cup encounter on August 4. —AFP photo

Rangers show fine form

GLASGOW, Aug 5: Glasgow Rangers, desperate for European recognition, brushed aside the Finns of FC Haka here on Wednesday to earn themselves a Champions League qualifying decider against Parma, reports AFP.

Goals from Rod Wallace, Jonatan Johansson and substitute Gabriel Amato sealed a 3-0 win in the second qualifying round, second leg encounter, as well as a 7-1 aggregate triumph.

Dick Advocaat's men, so dominant at home but yet to make a mark on the continent will be determined to avenge last season's UEFA Cup defeat to eventual winners Parma.

More importantly, victory will mean a Champions League berth for the winners.

Rangers welcomed back Michael Mols for his Ibrox debut after the Dutchman, who scored twice in the first leg, missed Saturday's league opener through injury.

Mols had the ball in the net after just four minutes only to be denied by offside.

It took Rangers only 14 minutes to move in front, however, when Mols combined with Barry Ferguson who fed Wallace to fire low past Andras Vilmotter.

Rangers doubled their advantage just before the half-hour following a Giovanni Van Bronckhorst corner, Johansson lurking to nudge home a close-range effort.

After a string of near misses, Amato was not to be thwarted. Dariusz Adamczuk's burst forward on the right and when the cross came over, Amato, who

had come on as a substitute, headed firmly into the net in the 66th minute.

Results at a glance:

At Chisinau, Moldova

Zimbru Chisinau (Mol) 2 (Dodul 24, Yepurianu 90) Dynamo Tbilisi (Geo) 0

Zimbru Chisinau win 3-2 on aggregate

At Vilnius

FK Zalgiris (Lit) 0 Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) 1 (Rebrov 35)

Dynamo Kiev win 3-0 on aggregate

At La Valetta

Valetta (Mit) 0 Rapid Vienna (Aut) 2 (Dowe 70, Lagonikakis 88)

Rapid Vienna win 5-0 on aggregate

At Stockholm

AIK Solna (Swe) 2 (Corneliusson 55, Gustavsson 84) Dnepr-Transmash Mogilev (Blr) 0

AIK Solna win 3-0 on aggregate

At Haifa, Israel

Hapoel Haifa (Isr) 0 Besiktas (Tur) 0

Aggregate score 1-1. Hapoel Haifa win on away goals

At Bratislava

Slovak Bratislava (Svk) 1 (Timko 60) Anorthosis de Famagusta (Cyp) 1 (Milinkovic 27)

Anorthosis de Famagusta win 3-2 on aggregate

At Oslo

Molde FK (Nor) 4 (Tessem 47, Hestad 65, Høsteth 67, 81) CSKA Moscow (Rus) 0

Molde FK win 4-2 on aggregate

At Riga

Skonto Riga (Lat) 2 (Laizans 78, Rubins 88) Rapid Bucharest (Rom) 1 (Radukan 32)

Skonto Riga win 5-4 on aggregate

At Liege, Belgium

Genk (Bel) 3 (Gudjonsson 45, Horvath 61) Maribor (Slo) 0

Maribor win 5-4 on aggregate

At Rijeka, Croatia

NK Rijeka (Cro) 0 Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 3 (Kezman 7, 82, Ivic 19)

Partizan Belgrade win 6-1 on aggregate

At Glasgow

Rangers (Sco) 3 (Wallace 15, Johansson 28, Amato 66) FC Haka (Fin) 0

Rangers win 7-1 on aggregate

At Budapest

MTK Budapest (Hun) 3 (Ilea 5, Kuttor 25, Ilea 41) IBV Vestmanna (Icl) 1 (Bjarkind 90)

MTK Budapest win 5-1 on aggregate

At Lodz, Poland

Widzew Lodz (Pol) 4 (Gastor 15, Wichniarek 53, 63, Michalski 75) Litex (Bul) 1 (Todorov 30)

Aggregate score 5-5. Widzew Lodz win 3-2 on pens

At Brondby, Denmark

Rangers (Den) 1 Sloga Jugomagnat (Mkd) 0

Brondby win 2-0 on aggregate

SEA Games soccer

Vietnam, Thailand on course

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Aug 5: Vietnam and Thailand almost certainly guaranteed themselves places in the semi-finals of the Southeast Asian Games soccer competition today after grinding out a 0-0 draw, reports Reuters.

The two teams remained level at the top of the Group A standings after the match at the Berakas Sports Complex.



Marion Jones of the United States is all smiles after winning the 200m of the IAAF Golden League meet in Monaco on Aug 4. —AFP photo

Djorkaeff signs for Klautern

BONN, Aug 5: French international midfielder Youri Djorkaeff is to join German First Division club Kaiserslautern from Inter Milan, the German soccer magazine Kicker reported today, reports Reuters.

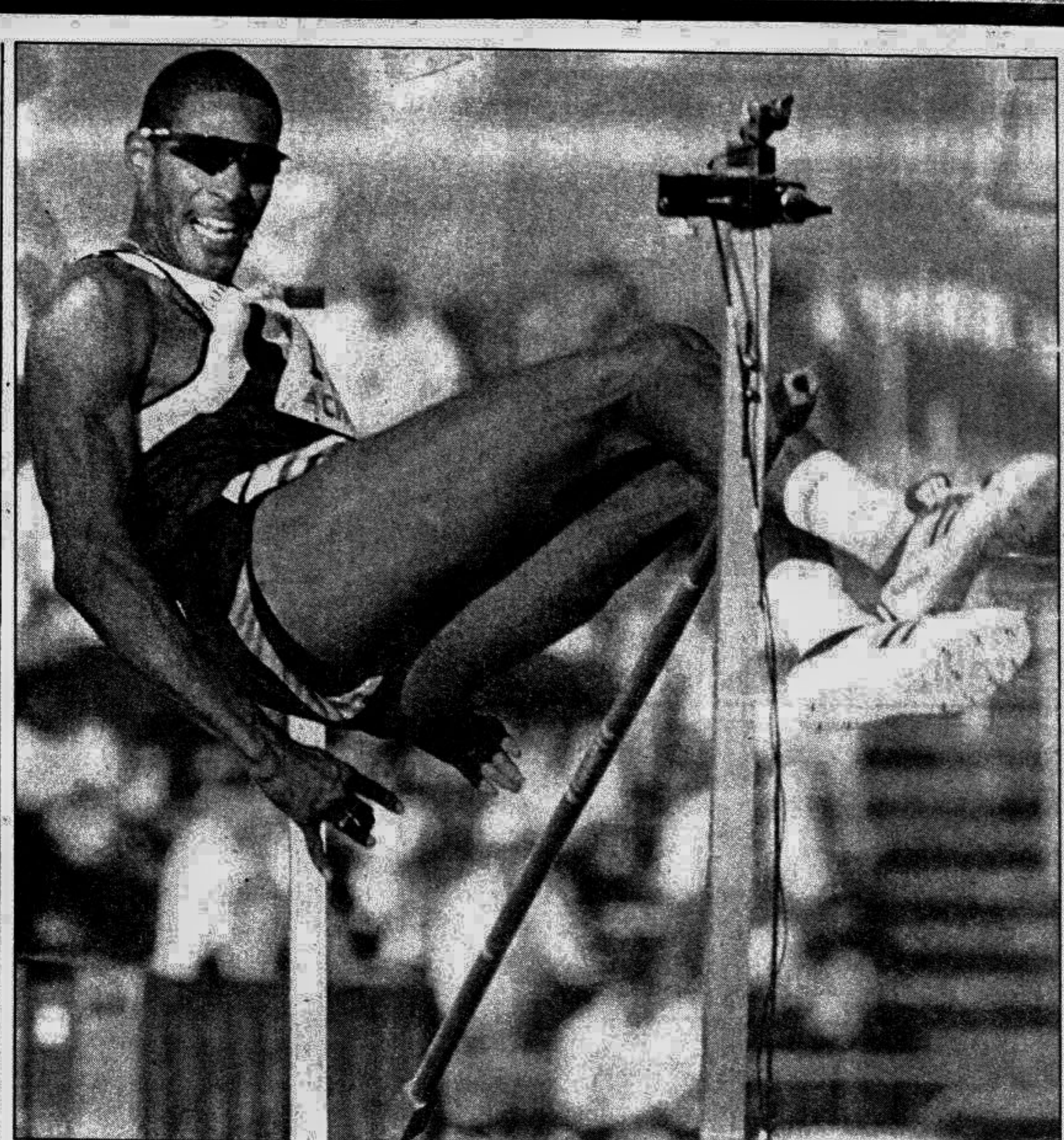
Kicker quoted the 31-year-old's brother and manager, Dennis, as saying Djorkaeff had signed a three-year contract for a transfer fee of around four million marks (2.20 million dollars).

The 1998 German champions said they had been in contact with the player but declined to confirm any contract had been signed yet.

"The reality is that none of the players over whom there has been speculation all summer has arrived in Kaiserslautern," said club chairman Juergen Friedrich.

A member of the French squad who won the World Cup last year, Djorkaeff joined Inter Milan from Paris St Germain in 1996. He was a regular in the Inter first team until this season, during which he was often left in the sidelines.

Djorkaeff said last May that he would leave Inter. He had been approached by several European sides, including Greek club Panathinaikos.



An AFP file photo of Javier Sotomayor shows the Cuban misses a jump at the Goodwill Games in New York in 1998.

Christie's denial

LONDON, Aug 5: Linford Christie vehemently denied taking performance-enhancing drugs on Wednesday and said he would fight to clear his name, reports Reuters.

The 1992 Olympic champion tested positive for metabolites of the steroid nandrolone at an indoor meeting in Germany in February and has been suspended from competition.

But the 39-year-old said it would be "ridiculous" to take drugs at the end of his career.

"I would have nothing to gain and everything to lose," he said on BBC TV. "I wanted to run for my club so I stayed on the (doping) list because I've got nothing to hide."

"When I first heard I'd been suspended I thought it was a joke. Then I realised it was true and it was a bit of shock."

"It sounds like the same old record, everyone saying they are innocent. But I never would take drugs."

"I am innocent and I am going to clear my name. I've done no wrong, the truth will out."

Christie won 40,000 pounds (\$64,980) in a libel action against a now-defunct magazine last year after it claimed he had used performance-enhancing drugs and he said he was prepared to go to court again.

"I spent hundreds of thousands, now lost, to clear my name a few months ago and it needs to be done the same again, he said."

Asked how he could have failed the test, Christie said he did not know.

Green, Jones rule in Monaco

MONT CARLO, Monaco, Aug 5: They rode together in the back of an open-top 1926 Packard owned by Prince Rainier of Monaco, reports AP.

It was an elegant entrance to the Hercules meet for Americans Maurice Greene and Marion Jones, king and queen of world sprinting.

By the time they left the Monte Carlo track Wednesday with opponents strewn in their wake, it was clear that their stylish mode of transport was appropriate.

For they too oozed class and style in winning the 200-metre races, with Greene finishing in 19.91 seconds, and Jones extending her unbeaten string in the event to 19 with a time of 22.15.

With this kind of form they are both heading for another place of distinction — the top of the podium in the World Championships in Seville, Spain, this month.

Greene, the 100m world record holder, edged Namibia's Frankie Fredericks by 0.01 seconds.

"It is my first time under 20 seconds this year, so I am glad," Greene said. "After all the good training I have done it comes together by itself."

Jones didn't run as easily as usual — she was 0.11 seconds ahead of fellow American Inger Miller — but did enough to extend her winning streak and remain in contention for the 1 million Golden League jackpot.

"The most important thing is to get a win," Jones said. "A lot of athletes don't get the recognition they deserve and they really pushed me today."

Wilson Kipketer, Gabriela Szabo and Bernard Barmasai also are still in the running for the Golden League series jackpot shared by those athletes who win the same event in all seven meets.

Kipketer, the Kenyan-born star who now runs for Denmark, won the 800 in 1:42.57 — the best time of the year. The world record holder played down the possibility of winning the jackpot.

"Everybody talks about how much money I can win this season, but they forget I have to work for it," he said.

"I am like everyone else who works for his salary. I can't go after the money without doing the job. I was pleased with my race; it is getting better all the time."

Szabo, of Romania, won the women's 3,000 in 1:42.57 and Barmasai, of Kenya, took the 3,000 steeplechase in 7:58.98.

Romania's Violeta Szekely, who got a late start to the season after falling down stairs and fracturing an ankle, won the 1,500 in 4:01.49 — the fastest time of the year. In the women's 400, world champion Cathy Freeman of Australia won in 49.76.

Sotomayor tests positive

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Aug 5: Doping further marred the 13th Pan American Games, with high jump world record holder Javier Sotomayor of Cuba drawing the spotlight — even though he is back in Havana, reports AP.

Sotomayor, the biggest name in the event, lost his gold medal Wednesday for testing positive for cocaine.

Sotomayor's urine sample showed cocaine in the amount of 200 parts per million, which would be consistent with a person who uses the drug, Eduardo de Rose, medical chief for the Pan Am Games committee, said.

Cuban officials insisted Sotomayor never took cocaine and charged the substance was planted in something he ate or drank.

"He has told us he has not taken this substance and we believe his word," said professor Rodrigo Alvarez Cambra, director of the orthopedic complex of Cuba. "That is why we know this is a manipulation..."

Sotomayor will be suspended by the international track federation for two years, which includes the World Championships later this month and the Sydney Olympics. But the Cubans plan to appeal.

The scandal was the third doping incident of this regional Olympics, completely overshadowing the events themselves.

Alexandra Stevenson's upset stomach led to her being upset in the semifinals of the tennis tournament.

She pounded her powerful groundstrokes, as usual, but this time they didn't stay in the court for the 18-year-old, the first woman qualifier to reach the Wimbledon semifinals earlier this summer.

Spraying unforced errors all over the hardcourts at the Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club, Stevenson was knocked out of the tournament Wednesday 6-0, 6-3 by Venezuela's Maria Vento.

Vento will play Tara Snyder of the United States in the final.

"I was just late for the ball a lot and that's why I was missing. You just feel dizzy sometimes," she said. "Add sometimes when you feel like that, you have to play tough. I tried but it didn't work out today."

While Stevenson settles for bronze, Snyder beat Argentina's Mariana Diaz-Oliviva 6-2, 6-2 and will face Vento, who has been ranked as high as 31st on the World Tennis Association tour, in the finals.

In men's play, Paul Goldstein of the United States meets

Cecil Mamit of the United States for the gold. Goldstein routed Paulo Taicher of Brazil, 6-1, 6-0, while Mamit beat David Nalbandian of Argentina 6-3, 6-1.

Gerald Tucker of Cincinnati rallied in the fourth round to stun Cuba's Waldemar Font in the semifinals of boxing. The bantamweight loss was the first for a Cuban in the games; Font was the 1997 world silver medalist. Tucker faces Venezuela's Neourar Cermono on Friday.

American Karen Dunn won the women's road cycling gold Wednesday, leading from start to end and finishing the 81.240 kilometres in 2 hours, 11 minutes, 32 seconds.

Dunn completed six laps on the 13.540-kilometre circuit on the outskirts of Winnipeg, leading a pack of four across the finish line.

Cuba's Yonka Gonzalez took the silver with Janildes Silva of Brazil just beating out Canada's Lyne Bessette for the bronze.

Canada continued to dominate in women's swimming, winning two more golds, while Brazil's men added two golds.

Kelly Stefanynshyn shattered her Canadian record in the women's 100-metre backstroke, winning at 1 minute 21.4 seconds and beating 1996 Olympic champion Beth Botsford.

Canada also won the 400 freestyle relay at 3:45.07, with 200 freestyle champion Jessica Deglau swimming the leadoff leg.

Freestyle Kaitlin Sandeno of the United States won the women's 400-metre freestyle in a career-best 4:10.74 seconds.

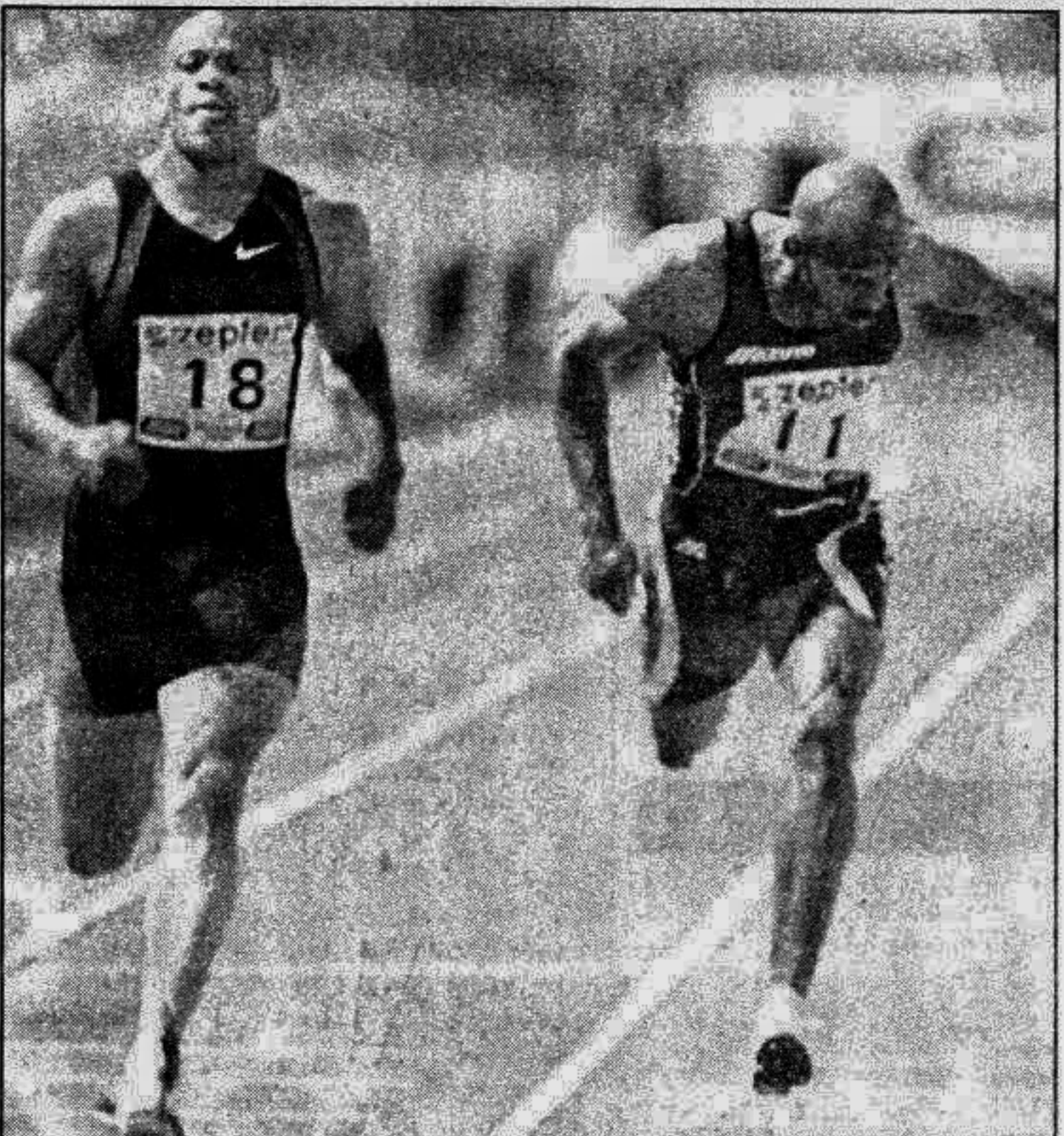
Brazil's victories came in the men's 100 freestyle and 200 backstroke, both in Pan Am record time.

Fernando Scherer broke teammate Gustavo Borges' record in the freestyle, clocking 49.19, with Borges, the two-time defending champion, taking third at 50.10. Splitting the two Brazilians was Argentina's Jose Meolans (49.94) as Americans failed to get a medal.

Leonardo Costa of Brazil won the backstroke with a time of 1:59.33.

Brazil also dominated in beach volleyball, with Adriana Behar and Sheila Bede defeated Jenny Pavley and Marsha Miller of the United States, 14-5, 12-0.

In field hockey, Argentina's 5-2 victory over the United States qualified it for the Sydney Games in women's play. Canada won the bronze 2-0 over Trinidad and Tobago. The men's bronze went to Cuba, which beat Chile 6-0.



American Maurice Greene (L) overtakes Frank Fredericks of Namibia on his way to win the 200m at the IAAF Golden League meet in Monaco, France on August 4. —AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "No seats" abbr

4 London-er's letter

7 On

8 Spent one's credit limit

10 Under way

11 Bail for Atlanta

13 Facts that back an argument

16 Prior to 1960s quartet

18 — generis

19 Cougar

20 Relpal

21 Baseball: inning; bowling;

23 Story-tellers?

25 Raw materials

DOWN

1 Pillered zies

2 Castle

3 Best circum-stance

4 Mothers of de dux

5 Montreal founder

6 Sand-wich shop

7 Place of worship?

8 Source of igneous rock

9 More compact

10 Noshed

12 Bedazzles

14 Appella-tion

15 Comical Caesar

19 de dux

20 West of Holly-wood

21 Jacques, e.g.

22 Gov. Jesse Ventura's party

23 Sagging

24 Levies

25 Scepter topper

26 Regiments

28 Carroll's "The Hunching of the —"

29 Eccentricities

30 Work-dough

31 Particular

32 Phoenix hrs.

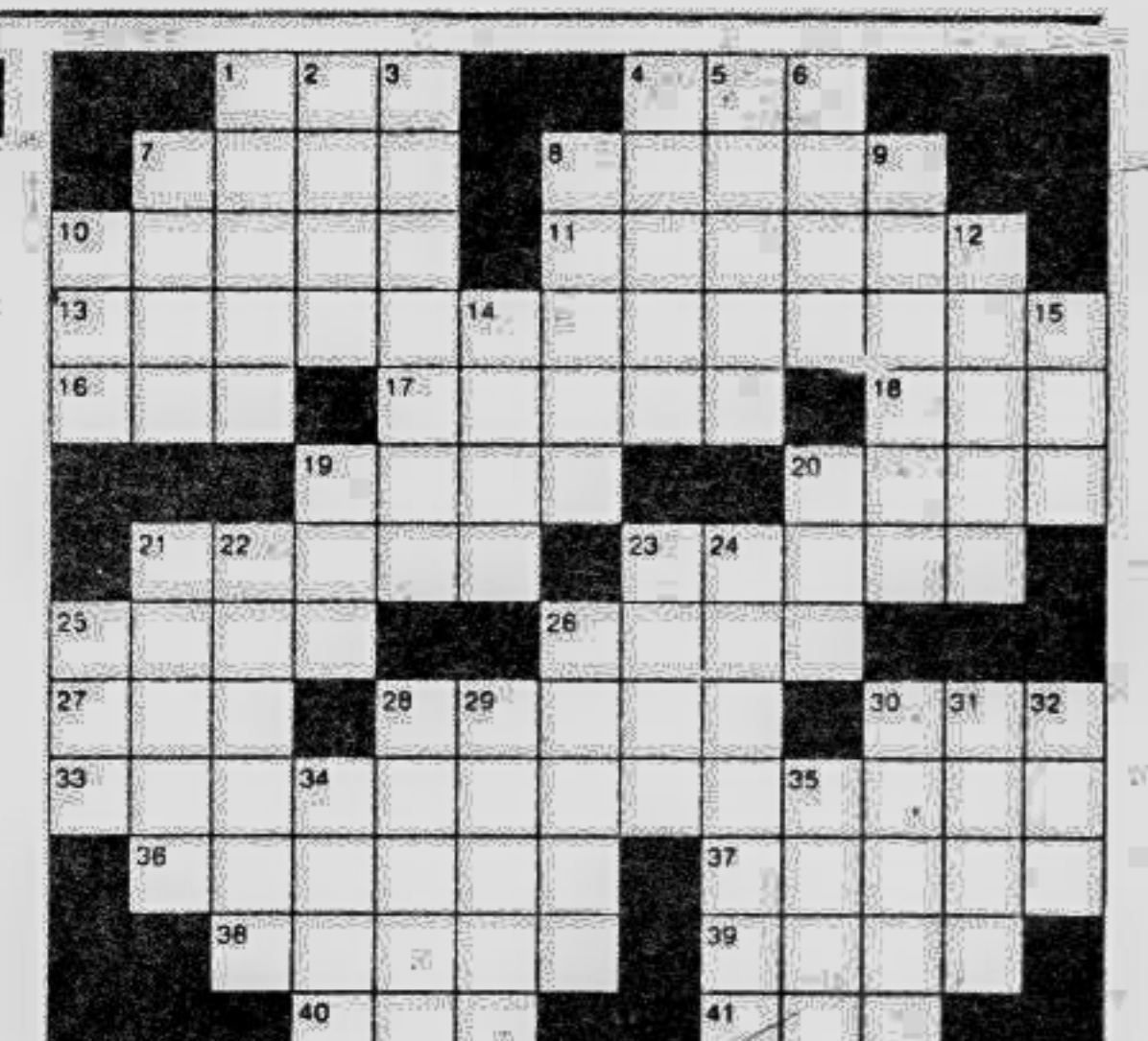
34 Pre-Christmas buy

35 Swedish furniture company

Solution time: 22 mins.

CAIN MIT TIRON
NEAT ADE NAVE
JAWBOME PLIALS
ADAREED
WONDIS BONEIDRY
ARE AIM OOO
DRYWALL SPECK
EYEAH WALLEVE
KYEKART OMAN
PEEK GET MILD
IRKS ANY ALLED

Yesterday's answer



CRYPTIQUIP

LFI XZKGRM GLOW GSV HSRKII

SZMWH GSZG Z JFWWVI RH

GIFOB Z HGVIM MVXVHHRGB

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: DETROIT'S LATEST CAR IS CALLED THE FROG; PERHAPS IT'S GOOD FOR SHORT HOPS.

Today's Cryptiquip clue: M equals N

The Cryptiquip 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 puzzle. You place in starting letters. Solution is by word and not by letter.