

Gullit denies internal strife

NEWCASTLE, England, Aug 19: Newcastle United manager Ruud Gullit has dismissed reports of a feud in his first team squad, reports AFP.



RUUD GULLIT

Gullit is also unhappy at continuing speculation that his future at St James' Park could be affected because his girlfriend Estelle Cruyff and 18-month-old daughter Joelle remain in Amsterdam.

'Having read a lot of the media reports over the last 48 hours, I really do not wish to comment about my family life as I believe that should be a private matter between myself, Estelle and our family,' Gullit added.

French First Division preview

PSG welcome back Madar

PARIS, Aug 19: Striker Mickael Madar returns for French league leaders Paris St Germain against Guivarch to trouble the Paris defence. Auxerre in the French league on Friday night after 10 days out of action with a hamstring pull, reports AFP.

Nancy's evergreen Irish striker Tony Cascarino is hoping to continue his goalscoring form at St Etienne, having found the net against both Le Havre and Sedan.

FIXTURES

Friday: Paris St Germain v Auxerre, Rennes v Bordeaux, Montpellier v Monaco, Le Havre v Sedan, Metz v Lyon, St Etienne v Nancy, Troyes v Strasbourg.

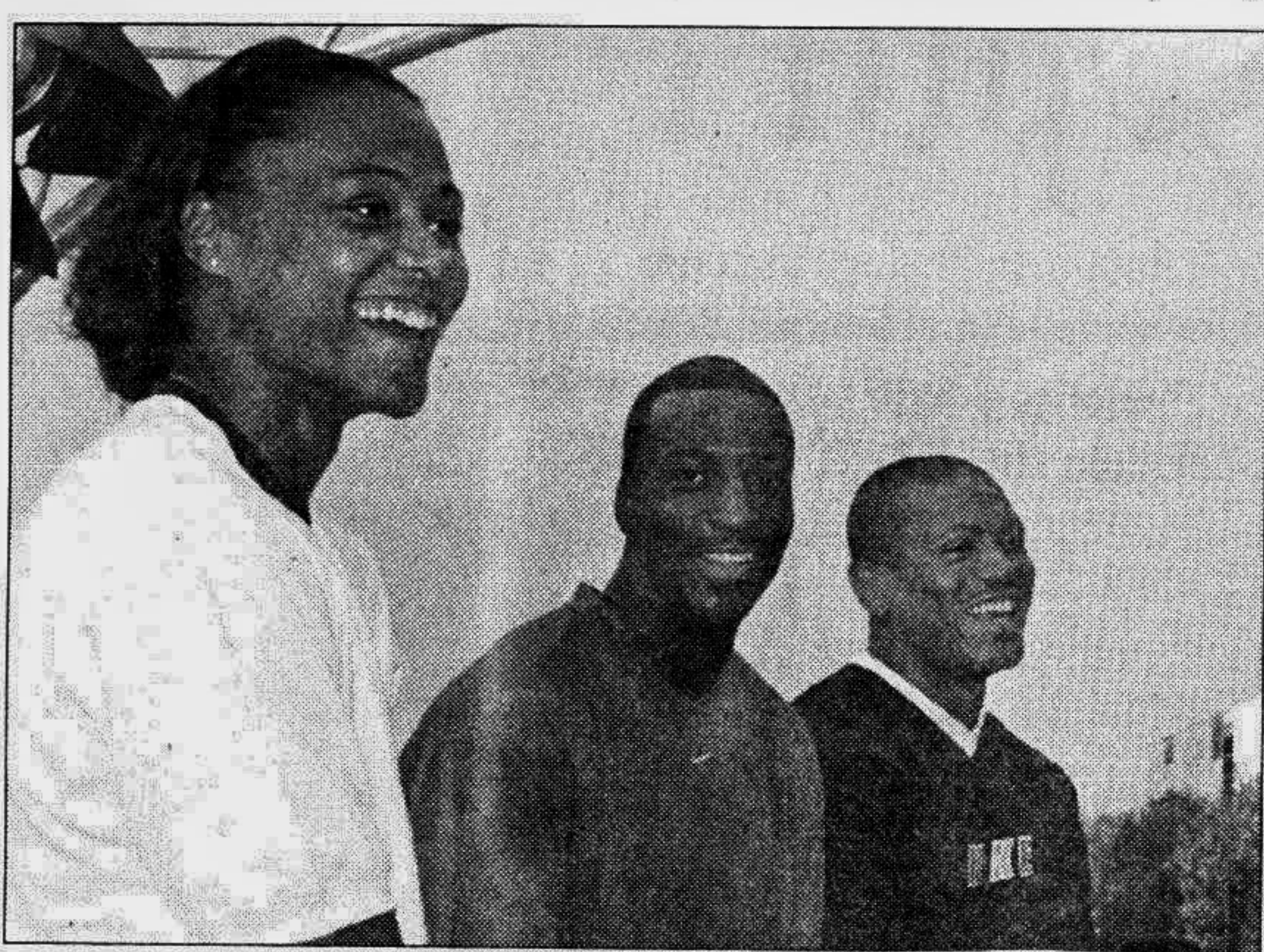
Sunday: Bastia v Nantes, Lens v Marseille



Russian Alexander Khalifman ponders his next move against Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu of Romania in the semifinal of the World Chess Championship in Las Vegas on August 18.

Vijay's Sports Cafe

NEW DELHI, Aug 19 (India Abroad News Service): Indian tennis legend Vijay Amritraj can always be banked upon for an ace or two even when it comes to the dizzy world of the hospitality industry.



American superstars (L-R) Marion Jones, Michael Johnson and Maurice Greene during a press conference in Seville, Spain organised on the eve of the World Athletics Championships starting Saturday. —AFP photo

Absentees take shine off medals

SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 19: (AFP): Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), likes to call athletes his family.

Victim of conspiracy?

KINGSTON, Aug 19 (AP): In this crime-plagued, economically depressed Caribbean land, track star Merlene Ottey is a towering and sadly rare icon of national pride.

Arab Games Egyptian natants rule the pool

AMMAN, Aug 19: Egyptian swimmers won three swimming gold medals and the country's squash players stamped their dominance in the sport in the Arab Games on Wednesday, reports AP.



Egyptian swimmer Shamseddin Mahmud exults after his victory in the 50-metre breaststroke of the Pan Arab Games in Amman on August 18. —AFP photo

Barisal soccer

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Aug 19: Barisal District First Division football league will start tomorrow at the local Abdur Rab Semiatat Stadium.

The league was organised by the Barisal District Sports Association (BDSA) football apparatus.

Steve, Arjuna bury hatchet

COLOMBO, Aug 19: Munching on lettuce leaves, Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh and former Sri Lanka skipper Arjuna Ranatunga have buried their past animosity, and now say they are good friends, reports AP.

Waugh, a veteran of 268 one-day matches, said he was going to miss Ranatunga, who has been dropped from the Sri Lanka squad. The Australian team is in Sri Lanka to take part in a three-nation one-day tournament and three Test matches with the home team and India.

Hussain wiful

From page 13 ter. But Hussain is also determined that the newcomers should make their presence felt by making a contribution both on and off the pitch to the team's morale and spirit.

World chess roundup

LAS VEGAS, Aug 19: Displaying nerves of steel, Liviu Nisipeanu of Romania defeated Alexander Khalifman on Wednesday at Caesars Palace to force a playoff in the semifinals of the World Chess Championship, reports AP.

Several Grand Masters commenting on the game believed Khalifman would be able to draw. He made a few small errors, however, and Nisipeanu was able to force a position that secured his win.

Around the counties

LONDON, Aug 19: Alex Wharf scored 78 runs for Nottinghamshire, as they fought back from losing their first six wickets for just nine runs against Glamorgan in the English county championship yesterday, reports AFP.

BRIEF SCORES

At Southampton Hampshire 125-1 (D Kenway 55 n.o., W Kendall 51 n.o.) v Warwickshire.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. A crossword puzzle grid with clues for across and down words. Includes a cryptiquip section at the bottom.