

## TRACK NOTES

SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 25 (AP): One down and one to go. Czech star Ludmila Formanova won the women's 800 metres Tuesday in the World Championships to match one achievement of her famous coach. But matching Jarmila Kratochvilova on the second court will be tougher.

Kratochvilova, who has coached Formanova for 11 years, holds the 800 record of 1 minute 53.28 seconds, the oldest mark on the books. Formanova won in 1:56.68, beating Mozambique's Maria Mutola by 0.04 seconds.

"I didn't know if I'd won when I crossed the line. I had to ask some Czech spectators and they told me I was first," the 25-year-old said. "I still can't believe it. I am very happy to have equalled my coach's world title."

## DUANE WHO?

Little-known American Duane Ross had the quickest time in Tuesday's 110-metre hurdles semifinals in which Allen Johnson, the Olympic and two-time defending world champion, was eliminated when he pulled out with recurring right calf injury.

"I keep getting better and I'm going to win gold in the final," said Ross, who has never won a major international title and had run only a best of 13.24 before this season. He ran 13.14.

"This is the hunger I've ever been in track and field," he added. "Right now I feel like I can't be beaten."

Anier Garcia of Cuba (13.18) and Britain's former world champion Colin Jackson (13.19) ran the next best times.

## SI, NO

Spanish and Italian newspapers were split over the controversial decision that resulted in Nururka Montalvo winning long-jump gold over Fiona May.

"A questionable leap to gold," read a front-page headline in the Barcelona daily El Periodico on Tuesday.

A polemical victory said El Pais, Spain's largest national paper.

The headlines in Italy mirrored May's anger over the decision.

"Judges tear away the gold from Fiona May," said Il Giornale, while Corriere dello Sport said, "Fiona robbed of the best gold."

Corriere stood behind May's complaint, and printed a close-up of Montalvo's foot at the line with a red circle around the contested toe. But Il Giornale admitted that "it's difficult to say," whether Montalvo's foot improperly broke the placticene.

The Spanish papers were reticent to claim the Cuban-born Montalvo's gold was entirely for themselves.

Two countries and just one medal. El Pais said that comes from Cuba," headlined Diario 16.

Montalvo married a Spaniard in January 1998 and was given Spanish nationality in May this year.

But the first Spanish woman to win an athletics gold medal at an Olympics or World Championships in apparently not famous in her new home.

Few people paid any attention to Montalvo late Monday night when she was seen with several friends at an outdoor restaurant near the famous Seville cathedral.

Still wearing her jumping suit and the trousers of her warm-up suit, Montalvo was asked politely by the restaurant staff to leave at 3 am about an hour after the restaurant regularly closes. She and her friends complied.

## FOOT IN MOUTH

American race walker Danielle Kirk is probably hoping she never gets a facelift.

On Monday, American team officials arranged to have her see a dentist. When the Spanish medical team showed up, they wanted to take her for foot X-rays — apparently due to some language confusion.

## Two fail drug test at C'ships

SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 25: Two athletes' positive drug tests in the World Championships threaten to cast another cloud over an event preceded by a series of high-profile doping cases, reports AP.

Nigerian sprinter Davidson Ezinwa, a former world junior champion, tested positive for a banned hormone and faces a two-year suspension. IAAF officials said Tuesday night.

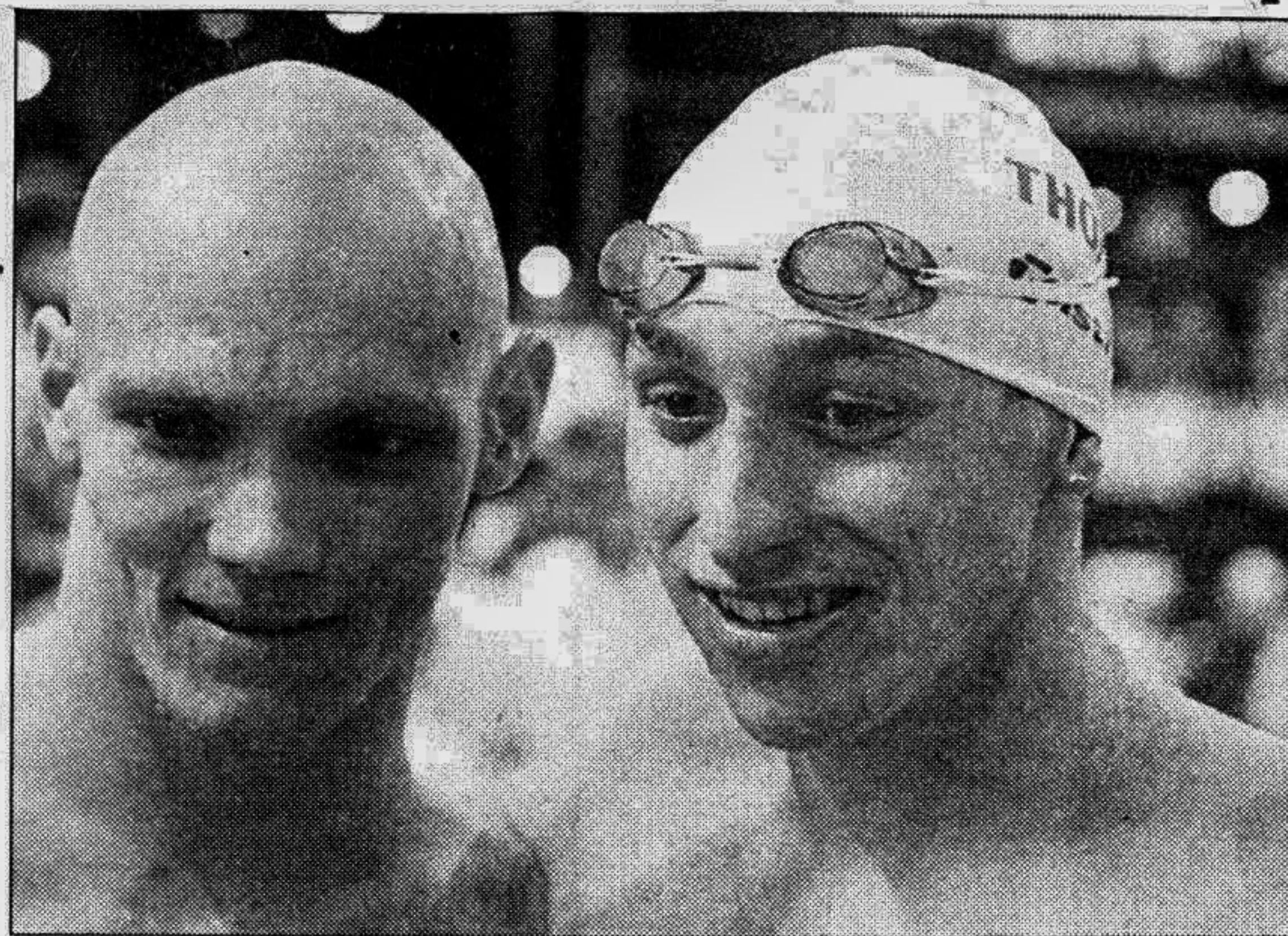
Another athlete, 1,500-metre runner Mohamed Ibrahim Aden of Somali, tested positive for a stimulant and received a warning, the officials said. Ezinwa, seventh in his 100m semifinal heat Sunday, tested positive for hCG, a peptide hormone that helps produce testosterone in the body. IAAF medical commission chief Arne Ljungqvist said.

It's Ezinwa's second positive test. In February 1996, he and his twin brother, Osmond, both received three-month bans for the use of the stimulant ephedrine. hCG stands for Chorionic Gonadotropin and is listed under the same class of prohibited substances as human growth hormone.

The substance is considered a serious performance-enhancer which, like steroids, draws a two-year ban.

Some of the sport's biggest stars are missing from these championships, which opened Saturday and close Sunday, after their own drug cases came to light.

They include Jamaican sprinter Merlene Ottey, winner of more World medals than anyone in history; former Olympic 100-metre champion Linford Christie of Britain; Cuban high jump world record-holder Javier Sotomayor, and US sprinter Dennis Mitchell.



PHENOMENAL: Ace Australian Ian Thorpe (R) poses with Michal Klim after breaking his third world mark in three days in the 200 metres breaststroke at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships in Sydney on August 24.

## Thorpe Australia's star



SEATTLE, Aug 25: Ian Thorpe broke his fourth world record as he shared in Australia's demolition of

their 200 metres freestyle relay world record at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Australians set a new time of 7min 08.79sec, smashing the record set at last year's Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games by 3.07 seconds.

Spurred by Thorpe's lead-off swim of 1:46.28, just 0.28 seconds outside his world record in the individual race, teammates William Kirby, Grant Hackett and Michael Klim, steamed to a new best time before a delirious home crowd.

Seven new world records have now been beaten in four days in the Sydney Olympic pool.

Kirby swam a personal best 1:48.96. Hackett went 1:46.30 and Klim anchored the record in 1:47.25. They had almost eight seconds to spare over the United States team.

Thorpe's phenomenal week continued following his two world records in the 200m freestyle along with his hacking into Kieren Perkins' 400m freestyle world record which had stood since 1994.

"When it came to the 200m relay I really thought I had to put in a good performance," said the 16-year-old.

"I was a bit under the weather again tonight, but I was able to do a pretty good job as a member of this team."

Klim said: "It's a record that's really special to us being the world champions and having the world record in KL that really means a lot to us."

## Allen sidelined

SEVILLE, Aug 25: Olympic and world high hurdles champion Allen Johnson, who has just returned to action after injury, pulled out of the World Championships yesterday after straining a muscle during a warm-up, reports Reuters.

The American, who has been suffering with a calf injury in recent weeks, failed to turn up for his 110 metres hurdles semifinal after injuring the calf again before the race.

Before Monday's opening day of hurdles heats at the Seville championships, Johnson had not competed since the Rome grand prix in early July.

Britain's world record holder Colin Jackson, one of the favourites, reached today's final when he took second place in a tight finish with Cuba's Anier Garcia.

Jackson clocked 13.19 to Garcia's 13.18. American Tony Dees was third with 13.30.

American Duane Ross looked sharp in winning the other semifinal in 13.14 and predicted he would be the new world champion today.

"I'm going to win the gold. I have been saying that since I've been here. I'm hungry," he said.

## Target world record



SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 25 (AP): There was a serious question about Michael Johnson's health early this year. There isn't now, and the powerful American 400-metre runner thinks he can break the world record in the World Championships.

"I know I'm in shape to run faster than 43.29," Johnson said Tuesday night after blistering over the first 300 metres of his semifinal heat and advancing to Thursday night's final.

American Butch Reynolds set the record in 1988, and Johnson has been chasing it in frustration in recent years. He has come close three times, with clockings of 43.39, 43.44 and 43.49.

"I just have to make sure I don't make any major mistakes," Johnson said. "The pace should be no problem Thursday."

It wasn't Tuesday night. Johnson blazed through the first 300 before shutting down three different times during the final 100.

"I shut down one gear on the end of the curve because I saw that I had a little lead, but I was still afraid of losing the lead,"

When asked how much more they could further slice off the record, Klim said: "I think next year (the Sydney Olympics) with the same kind of crowd hopefully we can go better."

Elsewhere, American Tom Malchow swam the second fastest time in history to claim the 200m butterfly gold medal. Malchow clocked 1min 55.41sec — just 0.19 sec outside Russian Denis Pankratov's 1995 world record.

Australia's Susie O'Neill swam two personal best times in winning the 200m freestyle final and qualifying fastest in her favoured 200m butterfly event for Thursday's final.

"It was close, but it's something to keep shooting for and will keep me focused for next year's Olympics," 23-year-old Malchow said.

"I was definitely a little nervous. I didn't expect to be that close to a world record, but I've done the three best times of my life so I was coming into the final just trying to relax as much as possible."

O'Neill just keeps getting better in her senior swimming years and Wednesday night she set a Commonwealth record 1:58.17 in winning the 200m freestyle while still having enough in reserve to go the second fastest time in history of 2:06.53 behind Mary T. Meagher's 18-year-old world record 2:05.96.

"Now know that I can break the world record before the end of my career, and if I don't do it tomorrow I've got a couple more years left so I'm just going to put it out of my mind and just try to do a personal best," said 26-year-old O'Neill.

Canada's Joanne Marlar claimed the medley double with victory in the 200m event in 2:13.63 from American Cristina Teuscher and Australian Elli Overton.

Thorpe had his only setback at the meet when he was the third fastest Australian qualifier for Thursday's 100m final. He will miss the final because of a rule allowing only two swimmers per nation.

Defending champion Klim won the 100m freestyle semifinal in a Commonwealth record 48.81sec. Teammate Chris Fyler was second (49.62) and Thorpe third in 49.71.

American Neil Walker was the winner of the other semifinal in 49.70sec, one-hundredth of a second faster than Thorpe.

## MEDAL-TABLE

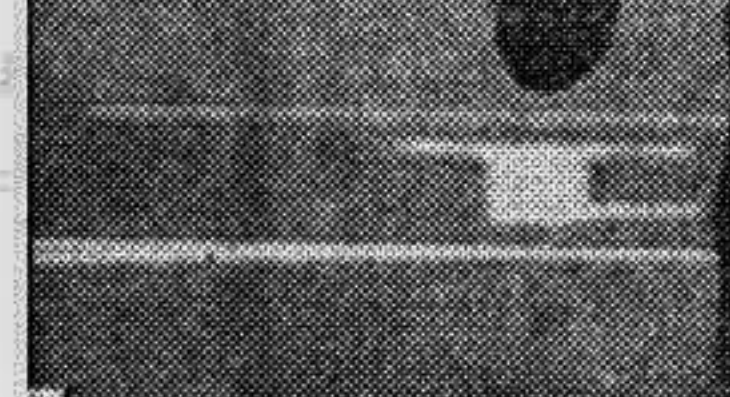
Medal table after the fourth day of the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships here Wednesday (tabulated under gold, silver, bronze, total):

Australia	8	6	2	16
USA	5	6	6	17
Canada	2	1	4	7
Japan	1	2	1	4
S Africa	1	0	2	3
Costa Rica	0	0	1	1

(Australia and Japan shared one gold)

Haile Gebrselassie, the Ethiopian long-distance star, starts celebrating after winning the 10,000 metres final at the IAAF World Athletics Championships on August 24.

— AFP photo



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he said. Then when I got to the straight, I shut down a little more because I knew I had a safe lead. I shut down a whole lot with 60 to 70 metres left."

Still, he finished in 43.95 seconds, only 0.03 seconds off

his world-leading time this year.

The world 200 record-holder and double Olympic gold medalist in 1996 has not shown any sign of injuries during the Championships.

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## Sampras, Hingis top US Open seedings

WHITE PLAINS, New York, Aug 25: World number one Pete Sampras and top-ranked woman Martina Hingis were installed as the top seeds for the US Open tennis championships beginning next week, tournament Director Jay Snyder announced on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Four-time champion Sampras is seeded first at the US Open for a fifth time, tying the open era men's singles record held by John McEnroe.

Sampras's longtime rival Andre Agassi was made the second seed following Sunday's victory at the Legg Mason Classic in Washington which elevated the Las Vegas native to world number two.

Two-time defending men's champion Patrick Rafter of Australia will be the fourth seed behind Australian open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia.

Hingis, the 1997 winner, was seeded first at Flushing Meadows for the third consecutive year.

Defending women's singles champion Lindsay Davenport was seeded second and fellow American Venus Williams third. Former world number one Monica Seles rounds out the women's top four.

The following are the complete men's and women's singles seedings for the 1999 US Open, the year's final Grand Slam event:

**MEN**  
1. Pete Sampras (US)  
2. Andre Agassi (US)  
3. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)

4. Patrick Rafter (Australia)  
5. Gustavo Kuerten (Brazil)  
6. Tim Henman (Britain)

7. Todd Martin (US)  
8. Carlos Moya (Spain)  
9. Greg Rusedski (Britain)

10. Marcelo Rios (Chile)  
11. Mark Philippoussis (Australia)  
12. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands)

13. Alex Corretja (Spain)  
14. Tommy Haas (Germany)  
15. Nicolas Pietrangeli (France)

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17. Martina Hingis (Switzerland)

18. Lindsay Davenport (US)  
19. Venus Williams (US)  
20. Monica Seles (US)

21. Mary Pierce (France)  
22. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)  
23. Serena Williams (US)

24. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)  
25. Julie Halard-Decugis (France)  
26. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)

27. Nathalie Tauziat (France)  
28. Barbara Schett (Austria)  
29. Dominique van Roost (Belgium)

30. Sandrine Testud (France)  
31. Amelie Mauresmo (France)  
32. Conchita Martinez (Spain)

## Davenport dumps Dechy

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, Aug 25: Top seed Lindsay Davenport advanced into the third round of the WTA Tour event here on Tuesday with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Nathalie Dechy of France, reports AFP.

Sandrine Testud, also of France, failed to hit top gear, but she reached the second round with a 7-6, 6-3 win over American Tara Snyder, and Elena Likhovtseva ousted Lisa Raymond to also reach the second round and set up a clash with third seed Monica Seles.

Qualifier Magui Serna of Spain earned a possible third round showdown with second seed Venus Williams by ousting Slovakian Henrieta Nagyova 7-6, 3-6, 6-3. Williams must first play another Spanish qualifier, Maria Antonia Sanchez Lorenzo, on Wednesday.

Davenport was never threatened by Dechy, who has improved her ranking from 50 to 25 this year with wins over Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Australian Open finalist Amelie Mauresmo. The American stamped her authority on the match by breaking to lead 2-1, and although she hit a bump after gaining a second break for 5-2, dropping her serve as she tried to close out the set, it was smooth running in the second. A break again.

— AFP photo

## WORLD C'SHIPS AT A GLANCE

SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 25 (AP): A brief look at what happened Tuesday, the fourth day of the World Championships.

**Weather** — Sunny, with temperatures hovering around 40 degrees Celsius (100 F) during the afternoon.

**Attendance** — 50,810

**Winners** — Women's Hammer Throw: Mihaela Melinte, Romania; Women's 800: Ludmila Formanova, Czech Republic; Women's Triple Jump: Paraskevi Tsiamita, Greece; Men's 1,500: Hicham El Guerrouj, Morocco; Men's 10,000: Haile Gebrselassie, Ethiopia; Men's Discus: Anthony Washington, United States.

**Other Highlights** — Michael Johnson of the United States qualifies for the 400 final. Maurice Greene and Marion Jones reach the 200 semifinals, keeping alive their hopes for sprint doubles.

**Surprises** — Washington stuns his opponents on his last attempt, setting a new championship record and pushing the heavily favored Germans Juergen Schult and Lars Riedel to silver and bronze.

**Quote of the Day** — "Unbelievable! Can you believe this? To tell you the truth, I have no idea how I did it," Anthony Washington after winning the gold in the discus.



Czech Republic's Ludmila Formanova is euphoric after winning the ladies' 800 metres at the IAAF World Athletics Championships on August 24.

## A north African night



SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 25 (AFP): It was north African night at the World Championships here on Thursday as Haile Gebrselassie and Hicham El Guerrouj confirmed themselves as two of the greatest athletes ever to run.

On a hot, sticky Spanish night, El Guerrouj won his second consecutive 1500m title with the fastest time this season of 3min 27.65sec — a championship record.

If he had not eased up 20 metres out he would also have broken the world record of 3:26.00 he set in Rome last year.

But victory came at a price on a night not made for such times.

The 24-year-old Moroccan collapsed in the dressing area under the stadium with dehydration but after several bottles of water he was able to walk — and talk.

"I can run faster than that!" he declared.

And he had a word for his archrival Noah Ngeny of Kenya who had to settle for the silver. "Noah said all along he could

beat me here and there but I knew I was still the best and tonight I made my point," he added.

Ngeny, aged 20 and a pace-maker just a year ago, was not in the least bit disappointed by taking the silver although he wasn't pleased by the tactics employed by the Spanish duo of Estevez and Fermin Cacho, who continually barged him.

"They tried to distract me and put me off my race but I was too good for them," he said.

The young Kenyan also had no time for suggestions that El Guerrouj was unbeatable.

Gebrselassie ran through the pain barrier to win his fourth successive 10,000m World Championship title in a time of 27mins 57.27sec.

The