

## Sport

**Ronaldinho for Sydney**

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 1: Striker Ronaldinho Gaucho, who was not called up for Brazil's 2002 World Cup qualifier against Peru on Sunday, is still in coach Wanderley Luxemburgo's plans for the Sydney Olympics, reports AFP.

Luxemburgo revealed the news on Wednesday hours before training for the Peru game.

Luxemburgo said he had nothing personally against Ronaldinho Gaucho, in reply to critical newspaper reports, and the player himself took the Peru rejection well.

The coach said that I would be selected for Sydney, Ronaldinho Gaucho said. But football is for the present moment and Brazil currently has great players and Luxemburgo chose others.

**Holyfield-Ruiz bout called off**

LAS VEGAS, June 1: Evander Holyfield's June 10 fight with John Ruiz for the vacant WBA heavyweight title was called off after Holyfield suffered an injury in training, reports AP.

Holyfield had been scheduled to fight Ruiz at Caesars Palace for the piece of the title taken from Lennox Lewis by a judge for not defending it against the top-ranked contender.

Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission, said he was told Wednesday afternoon that Holyfield was injured training in Houston and the card was canceled.

A spokesman for promoter Don King said he believed Holyfield injured a rib, but that specifics would be discussed at a new conference Thursday in Las Vegas with King, Holyfield and Holyfield's doctor.

Spokesman Greg Fritz said it was possible a new date could be announced for the fight at that time.

Caesars Palace spokeswoman Debbie Munch said the hotel had begun refunding tickets bought for the bout.

Holyfield's manager, Jim Thomas, was not immediately available for comment.

But Norman Stone, the manager for Ruiz, said his fighter was bitterly disappointed about the postponement. Stone said several hundred Ruiz supporters had bought nonrefundable plane tickets to fly from the Boston area to Las Vegas for the fight.

You can't say he's faking because he's never pulled out of a fight before that I know of, Stone said of Holyfield.

Lewis holds the other two major portions of the title, and beat Holyfield last November when they met for the undisputed title.

But when he decided to defend against Michael Grant instead of the top-ranked Ruiz, a judge ruled that Lewis was contractually obligated to fight Ruiz or be stripped of the WBA version of the title.

**Hailie set for half marathon debut**

LONDON, June 1: Hailie Gebrselassie is set to run his first half marathons, competing in the Great North Run in England after the Sydney Olympics, reports Reuters.

The 13.1 miles race from Newcastle to South Shields will be held on October 22.

Gebrselassie said today: "Although I regularly exceed the half marathon distance in training it is logical I should compete over the distance before finally stepping up to 26 miles."

The decision sparked speculation that the Ethiopian may break the one hour barrier for the distance for the first time in Britain.

The 10,000 metres world and Olympic champion had been due to return to action last weekend in the Netherlands after missing the entire indoor season due to an ankle injury. But the meeting was called off because of gale-force winds.

Gebrselassie would have been having his first race since the Seville world championships last August when he collected his fourth consecutive 10,000 metres title.

**No merry-making for Spaniards**

PARIS, June 1: Former French Open champions Sergi Bruguera and Carlos Moya had already fallen at the first hurdle as less than half the 15-strong Spanish contingent remained in the hunt at Roland Garros today, reports Reuters.

Alex Corretja, in the third round after a five-set win over 1999 semifinalist Fernando Meligeni of Brazil on Wednesday, took the baton as chief defender of Spain's proud clay court tradition.

It's pleasing for me to realize that after a two and a half hour match I managed to win against an adversary like him, 1998 finalist Corretja said, counting Spain's few remaining blessings.

Alberto Berasategui, finalist in 1994, and Felix Mantilla, who reached the semifinals two years ago, were also eliminated. Mantilla, failing to Argentine qualifier Agustin Calleri.

Two Spanish survivors were paired against each other in the third round today. Albert Portas and qualifier Juan Balcells, while 1995 quarter-finalist Albert Costa was up against Hernan Gunay.



England striker Emile Heskey (R) threatening the Ukraine goal during their international friendly at the Wembley on May 31. —AFP photo

**Euro 2000 warm-up****England blank Ukraine**

tion 30 yards out when Sergei Popov brought down Fowler.

Beckham's curling free-kick looked to have the better of Kernozenko but curled inches wide of the far post.

England looked threatening when they ventured forward and the woodwork came to the rescue of the visitors in the ninth minute.

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Beckham sent over a right-wing corner which picked out Alan Shearer and his downward header should have been collected by Kernozenko.

And Arsenal captain Tony Adams sealed victory for Kevin Keegan's men after 68 minutes with a low shot inside the area.

Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes saw his first half shot cannon off the post while at the other end England keeper Nigel Martyn did well to keep a clean sheet by twice denying Andri Shevchenko - top scorer in Italy's Serie A this season - and Oleg Luzhny in the second period.

Ukraine were quickly into their stride with some quick decisive passing with Shevchenko prominent in the early stages.

The AC Milan striker made a run into the England penalty area after skating past the challenge of Adams and it needed Sol Campbell to make the interception.

England retaliated and won a free-kick in a dangerous position.

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Shevchenko continued to cause plenty of problems for England. He turned Adams and then went past Campbell before getting in a shot on the turn which was saved by Martyn.

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