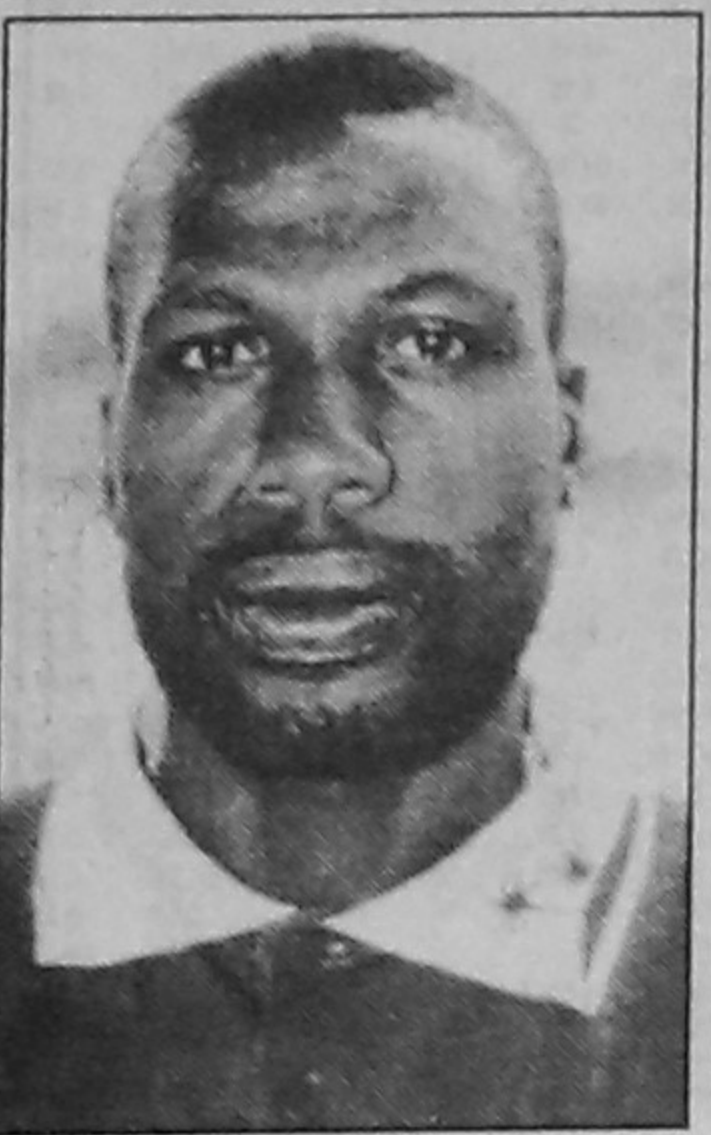


SPORTS TALK



Curtly Ambrose
(Former West Indies fast bowler)
"It is always a nice feeling to take wickets in Test cricket, whether it is the first one or the 400th. I am just happy that it is all over and done with."

After getting the 400th wicket.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-135

Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 15, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who scored the first hat-trick
in this year's Fed Cup
football?

Ritu Kanchan Tamver

2. Who is Pakistan's cricket
team captain?

Wasim Waqar Moin

3. Who is the captain of
Bangladesh cricket team?

Amrullah Akram Naimur

4. Who won the AB Bank Men's
T1 title?

Arumirala Biman Martens

5. Who was voted Germany's
footballer-of-the-year in 2000?

Kahn Sommer Reuter

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Kenya retain Africa Cup

NAIROBI, Sept 11 (AFP): Kenya beat Zimbabwe by seven wickets to retain the Africa Cup cricket title here Sunday.

Steve Tikoko continued to enjoy remarkable success ahead of the ICC (International Cricket Council) Knockout tournament with a captain's innings of 96 not out.

He shared a third-wicket partnership stand of 150 runs with Hitesh Modi who made 42 before he was dropped by Steven Wright off the bowling of Niel Ferreira.

Battling first on a moist wicket, Zimbabwe's innings were built on Barney Rogers, who batted well for his half-century (74) with assistance from Charles Coventry who added 62 runs in the fifth-wicket partnership.

South Africa beat Uganda by two runs to take third place in the play-off.

Rajshahi soccer

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Sept 11: Rajshahi Mayor Cup football competition kicked-off today at the Rajshahi Govt College playground.

Manu Sporting Club, Ambagan Club and Reliance Club won their respective matches in the inaugural day.

In the first match Manu Sporting Club defeated the Heaven Club 1-0. Sohail netted the goal.

In the second match, Ambagan Club defeated Turken Shah A 5-1. Ceaser and Sujun scored two goals each for the winners while Suman netted the only goal for the losers.

Reliance defeated Tarun Sangha 1-0 in the third match.

Anwar scored the lone goal.

Earlier Rajshahi City Mayor inaugurated the tournament.

HANDBALL

Rajshahi defeated Chapalnawabganj 32-3 in the Rajshahi Divisional women's handball competition at the Chapalnawabganj Stadium yesterday.

Mona scored the highest 10 goals followed by nine from Pappa, eight by Rita.

WorldTel singled out

Five-year deal to be finalised by Sept 20

Sports Reporter



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has singled out WorldTel to negotiate further on the sale of its television and internet rights for next five years.

The America-based TV production company emerged as the highest bidder, revealed BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday following an emergency meeting of the Board. Saber is however hopeful of finalising the deal by September 20.

Five companies responded to the Test newcomers' offer, the last date of which was August 25. The four other bidders were Trans World International, World Sports Group, Crinfo and Satview Media Group of Company.

Although a newspaper reported that the Satview Media Group offered Taka 240 crore

for all the rights involving Bangladesh cricket, the Board did not consider the local company's offer on grounds of its 'unknown' credentials. "The Board felt it does not have the credentials needed for this high profile job," Saber told the journalists at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the afternoon.

The Board appears ambitious in its drive for earning Taka one hundred crore from the sale of TV-Internet rights and other sponsorships in next five years. "That is the goal we are aiming for in next five years," Saber said.

Without revealing the amount offered by WorldTel, he said, "They made the highest bid while the second next offer came from the TWI."

The BCB boss however declined to disclose the difference between the offer of the two. "We can not disclose it unless

we reach an agreement. We have selected WorldTel only for further negotiations. If we fail to reach an agreement, then we would turn to TWI. We would sit with TWI only if it matched the offer of WorldTel," he said.

"We have certain terms and conditions which we would like to spell out to the WorldTel. We want them to submit a minimum bank guarantee of an 'internationally reputed bank. Besides, we will also discuss on the aspect of revenue amounts and other related matters."

The Board is also of the opinion to put a clause in the contract so that the would-be company shares its rights for the sake of mass access to the followers of the game across the world.

"We will try to take some part of the Internet rights from them and give it to the Crinfo because of their expertise in this field," said Saber.

Tough day at office for Muktis

Sports Reporter



Title contenders Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra had a disappointing outing yesterday in the National Bank Premier League as they were forced into a tie-breaker by a resolute Farashganj Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The all reds eventually managed a 7-6 win in the shoot-out to run away with two valuable points. The regulation 90 minutes had ended 1-1. Farashganj on the other hand got one point.

The old towners may consider themselves unlucky as they had made all the running in the match against their more colourful opponents.

Farashganj, who had looked the better organised side from the beginning of the match, took a deserving lead in the 33rd minute. After winning a loose ball on the edge of the left hand post, Mithu dodged past Hasan-Al Mamun before releasing a powerful shot that thudded into the net following a wicked deflection off Muktijoddha central defender Rajani (1-0).

Farashganj appeared to be running away with their slender advantage before Tushar spared Muktijoddha's blushes. The diminutive midfielder let loose a spectacular side-volley from 25 yards out that rocketed into the upper left corner of the net giving no chance to Farashganj custodian Dhanu (1-1).

Interestingly this was the only realistic chance of the game for a totally out of sorts Muktijoddha.

However a shock for the big spenders was always on the cards, as they had no one to orchestrate play from the midfield and desperately lacked firepower in front in the absence of Indian ace IM Vijayan.

They had given a glimpse of

their frailty in their previous match against Brothers Union. Only an injury time strike from Asif enabled them to escape with a 1-0 victory on that occasion.

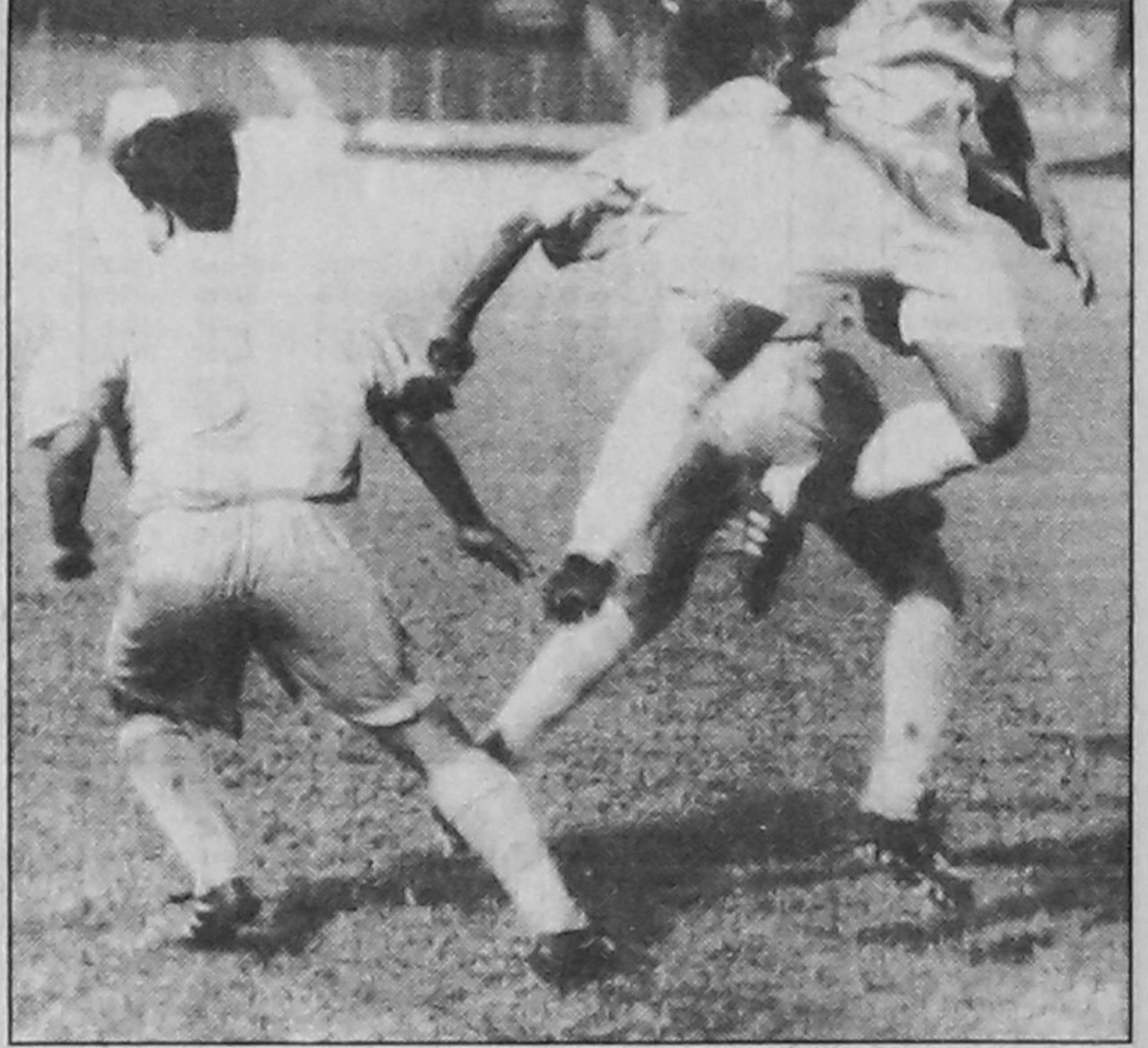
Farashganj had a wonderful chance to force an upset but Polish missed a sitter from point-blank range in the 74th minute.

The match irrevocably rolled

into tiebreaker after Polish missed the sitter, putting the most expensive player of the season and national custodian Aminul to prove his worth for Muktijoddha under the bar.

Aminul however had could do little in the shoot out as Farashganj matched Muktijoddha in converting all the five kicks. In the sudden death

See page 9



Muktijoddha midfielder Liton (R) leaps to head the ball against two Farashganj players during their National Bank Premier Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

—Star photo

Usha survive Ajax assault

Amir keeps Abahani smiling

Sports Reporter



Saleem Amir's first half goal kept Abahani Krira Chakra's hopes of a runners-up spot alive when they earned a hard-fought 1-0 victory over newcomers Sonali Bank in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League

short corner in the 46th minute.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division

Mariner YC v Farashganj SC (4 pm)

First Division

Victoria SC v Dhaka Wanderers (2:15 pm)

Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club have a maximum 30 points from ten matches.

USHA-AJAX

When star-studded Usha took to the field they expected an easy sail against weaker opposition. But were taken aback when Ajax with one point so far in the league, scored twice inside fifteen minutes.

Aleem, the tall former Pakistan Olympian, put Ajax ahead in the second minute and then doubled his tally again from a nice field goal after 13 minutes.

Usha then turned the match on its head.

Asif, the former Pakistan centre forward reduced the arrears with a short corner in the 25th minute while his compatriot Saqlain brought the scores level a minute later after being fed by Asif.

In the second session, Shuvo put Usha in front from a short corner in the 37th minute while Saqlain then slammed two goals in the 57th and 58th minute to seal the victory.

In between, Aleem managed to complete his hat-trick from a

short corner in the 46th minute.

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Arambagh edge Badda

Sports Reporter

A 12th minute strike from striker Mujibur Rahman Ritu was enough for Arambagh to earn full points in their National Bank Premier Division football league encounter against Badda Jagarani

at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Arambagh are now in fourth spot in the league table having collected five points from three outings. Badda meanwhile are sharing the sixth spot with Brothers Union.

PCB chief takes back time limit

KARACHI, Sept 11 (Internet report): The Pakistan Cricket Board has withdrawn its September 29 deadline for the Board of Control for Cricket in India to finalise its winter tour of Pakistan.

PCB chairman Tauqir Zia said, the deadline has been withdrawn but BCCI chief A C Muthiah has been requested to convey the decision of the Indian government at the earliest.

Zia spoke to a website upon his return from Dubai where he had gone to attend a meeting of the Asian Cricket Foundation. Zia said he had told Muthiah about Pakistan's eagerness to host India this winter.

"We have withdrawn the deadline, but would like to know the Indian government's decision so that we can make alternative arrangements, if necessary," the PCB chairman said.

Zia, who is also the president of the Asian Cricket Council, rejected suggestions that the continent was on the verge of being divided and Pakistan pushed into isolation.

"The impression is totally false. The Asian countries are still very much united," Zia said from Mangla. He added: "If the Asian countries have to move forward, it has to be a united effort. Besides, no one would gain by isolating the other."

"In fact, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are very keen to assist Bangladesh. We had a very productive meeting in Dubai," Zia said.

With Sri Lanka gunning for the ACC chiefs post with the assistance of India and Bangladesh, Pakistan feel threatened of being isolated, but Zia said there were no such fears.

"Saber Hossain Chowdhury (the Bangladesh cricket chief) has proposed a reciprocal series in case India did not tour Pakistan. He has suggested a series comprising two Tests and three one-dayers. It only reflects that the relations are pretty fine," Zia said.

The PCB chairman said the International Cricket Council will be releasing funds for the development of the game in Asia, a week after the conclusion of the ICC Knock-out tournament in Kenya. He said the PCB had received the ICC letter before he left for Dubai.

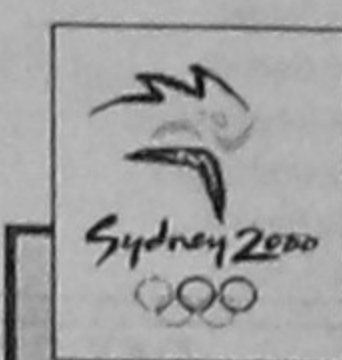
Saurav shocked at Wasim claim

From Our Correspondent CALCUTTA, Sept 11: Wasim Akram's latest comment that India does not want to play against Pakistan because it is afraid of losing has surprised the Indian captain Saurav Ganguly.

In an interview to a vernacular daily in Calcutta from Lancashire, Ganguly has stated, "I am surprised that an intelligent cricketer like Wasim Akram could have made such a comment. I do not know about the past. However, in the last three-four years that I have been playing we have defeated Pakistan in England, Australia, Toronto and even in Pakistan. So I have no idea as to why Akram made such a comment."

Ganguly in fact is shocked simply because to him Akram is the best bowler that he has played. "I have played most of the fast bowlers. To me, Akram is the greatest. So it is all the more surprising as to how an intelligent person like him could make such a comment."

Nwankwo Kanu, Nigeria's

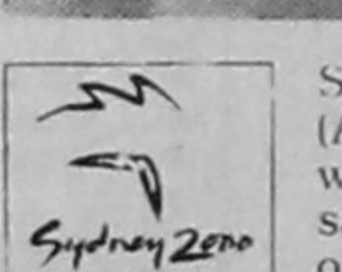


The Greatest Ritual of Sports



BAYWATCH! Brazil beach volleyball player Adriana leaps to hit the ball while teammate Shelda looks on during a practice session at Bondi Beach in Sydney yesterday.

SYDNEY SIDELINES



SYDNEY, Sept 11 (AP): A Canadian water polo player says she's honoured to have joined the crowd posing nude for magazine previews of the Olympics.

Waneek Horn-Miller appeared on the cover of the Canadian edition of Time magazine last week holding a water polo ball and wearing only an eagle feather in her black hair.

"It's a trend at these Olympics," Horn-Miller said Monday. US swimmer Jenny Thompson posed recently for Sports Illustrated wearing just the bottom of a stars-and-stripes bathing suit, her hands strategically covering her breasts.

Several Olympians from Australia also have stripped off for the camera, appearing in Black and White magazine's 'Sydney Dream' edition in May.

KICKING THEMSELVES

The players who had been expected to be the biggest stars at the Olympic men's soccer tournament won't be kicking a ball in Australia.

Nwankwo Kanu, Nigeria's

standout player in its gold-medal run four years ago at Atlanta, put club before country this time and is staying put to play for England's Arsenal.

"I love to play for my fatherland, my country," Kanu said. "But I helped us win the Olympic medal four years ago and, because of my commitments with my club, I decided it was not quite right to leave Arsenal for so long and try to achieve something I had already achieved before."

Brazil's Romario may be a World Cup star, but coach Wanderley Luxemburgo skipped over him in favour of a young squad.

Australia's hopes for a gold medal on home turf were expected to be led by Harry Kewell. But he underwent Achilles tendon surgery last week after being sidelined for the first five games of the English season for Leeds United.

ON THE COURT

Fresh from his victory in mixed doubles at the US Open, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario was back on the tennis court Monday, ready to try to add her collection of Olympic medals.

Sanchez-Vicario practiced

with her brother and coach Emilio Sanchez at a tennis centre in Sydney. The Spanish player already has won four Olympic medals - a bronze in singles and a silver in doubles at Barcelona in 1992, and a silver in singles and a bronze in doubles at Atlanta in 1996.

UNWANTED GUESTS

Three women who apparently pose as prostitutes found their way into the pub at the Olympic Village where journalists are staying while covering the games.

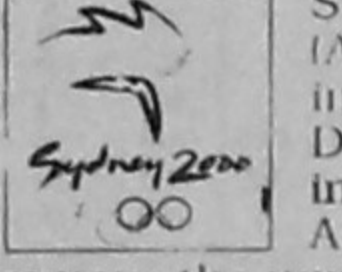
Police "are conducting an inquiry into how they got in," said Geoffrey Bennun, manager of the media village. "You can be sure that this won't be happening again."

The three women mixed with journalists early Monday at the 24-hour pub on the grounds of the guarded village, distributing business cards for an escort service.

The women sported guest passes, obtainable only by sponsorship from a registered guest, Bennun said. He did not disclose the affiliation of the media representative who signed them in.

The women have been barred from the village.

Aussies left with no option



SYDNEY, Sept 11 (AFP): The seemingly impregnable Dutch wall stands in the way as Australia strive to remove the unwanted tag of the best men's field hockey team not to have won an Olympic gold.

The kookaburras, who have won the World Cup once and the Champions' Trophy seven times, just can't seem to lay their hands on the most coveted title in the sport despite a top-four finish in seven of their last eight Olympic appearances.

The men's failure to win the gold, in sharp contrast to their all-conquering female counterparts, is one of field hockey's enduring mysteries.

So worried was coach Terry Walsh of his wards' mental block, he invited Australia's inspirational World Cup-winning cricket captain Steve Waugh to lecture them on motivation.

"Steve's an idol for most of us, hearing him has made us even more desperate to succeed," said skipper Michael York, preparing for his fourth Olympics.

Playing on their home turf in Sydney gives the Aussies a chance to better their silver at Barcelona in 1992 and a bronze in Atlanta four years ago - provided the Dutch don't come in the way.

The Netherlands are the un-

disputed champions of the modern game, having added the World Cup and Champions' Trophy titles to their first Olympic gold won in Atlanta.

Fresh from their victory in the elite six-nation Champions' Trophy at home in Amstelveen in June, the Dutch are the team to beat at Sydney.

Coach Maurits Hendriks, however, refuses to take victory for granted.

"I don't think we are the favourites," he said. "There are three or four teams which stand an equal chance of winning."

Hendriks only confirmed the widespread belief that this could be the most open hockey competition ever at the Olympics.

Even rank outsiders Canada, the Pan American champions returning to the Games after 12 years, will fancy their chances after trouncing Atlanta silver-medalists Spain 4-2 and 3-0 during a European tour in July.

The formidable European challenge at Sydney includes two-time champions Germany, Britain and resurgent Poland, who came through the qualifiers at Osaka in March for their first Olympic appearance in 20 years.

The continental tug-of-war continues as past masters Asia attempt to stop the Europeans from taking home their fourth successive gold.

South Korea, the only Asian

team at the Champions' Trophy this year, have emerged from the shadow of India and Pakistan to pose the strongest challenge from the region.