

Harmony

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The four-hour extravaganza drew on the Australian love of the ocean, beginning with the sea and returning to the harbour city after a journey through the history of the country.

Each segment was intertwined with a haunting Aboriginal spirituality — threaded together by two central characters — a small girl and Aboriginal dancer Djakaparra Munyaryun, symbolising unity and reconciliation.

Preceding it was a traditional "welcome to the country" ceremony which Aboriginal leaders said was an crucial breakthrough in awareness of indigenous custom.

"It would have been an insult to Aborigines if it had not happened," said Marjorie Anderson, Olympic Coordination Authority strategy manager.

Australia's Olympic flag bearer and team captain Andrew Gaze said the choice of Freeman and the Indigenous content symbolised Australia's ability to settle its differences.

"I think that as a nation we've got a long way to go and we're doing our absolute best for that reconciliation process," he said.

With Cathy's selection and the involvement of others (indigenous Australians and just the theme of it. I think it was reflective of the nation's ability to deal with process to continue."

Lovita O'Donoghue, former chairman of the powerful indigenous group, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, "just loved" the opening ceremony, according to former Olympic champion runner Herb Elliott.

He spoke to O'Donoghue in a hospitality suite at Stadium Australia after he ran the Olympic torch into the stadium.

"She just absolutely loved the opening ceremony, she was exceptionally positive about it," he said.

New South Wales Premier Bob Carr said the ceremony "could well prove to be the greatest work of the imagination ever produced in Australia."

"It could in fact be the greatest single work of art produced by Australians," IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch said it was the most beautiful Olympic ceremony of his presidency.

Samba beat

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Scoring beginning, defeating Italy's Luciana Perrotta and Daniela Gattelli 15-9.

A partisan, Bondi Beach crowd cheered Gooley and Manser all the way and Gooley was delighted with the support.

"These guys (the crowd) put on an incredible show," said the 19-year-old. "It's a great feeling to be the first Australian team out here. We can't ask for anything better."

But a self-critical Gooley was less content with her game, saying: "Pauline made up for me on the serve. I'm not as strong as I could have been."

Gooley and Manser, although candidates for medals, are considered second strings behind Kerri Pottharst and Natalie Cook for the host nation.

Pottharst and Cook kicked off their campaign with a hard-fought 15-11 triumph over Mexico's Maria Teresa Galindo and Hilda Gaxiola Alvarez.

The third Australian team of Annette Huggins Tholen and Sarah Straton came unstuck, though, although in fairness they were taking on tough opponents in America's Jennifer Johnson-Jordan and Annett Davis.

Johnson-Jordan, the daughter of 1960 Olympic decathlon champion Rafer Johnson, was inspired to become an Olympic athlete when her father was part of the torch relay team that took the last lap of the track in Atlanta in 1996 before the flame was handed to Muhammad Ali.

And she showed grit her father would be proud of when she and Davis saw off the Aussies 15-13.

The other American contenders Misty May and Holly McPeak had an easier passage, eclipsing Czech duo Martina Hudcova and Tereza Tobiasova 15-5.

This is beach volleyball's second appearance in the Olympics after a successful debut in Atlanta — where the skimpily costumed of the competitors earned them the tag of volleyballers.

Portuguese pair Maria-Jose Schuller and Ana Cristina Pereira were also impressive on day one, dispatching Xiong Zi and Chi Rong of China 15-5 while the most one-sided match of all saw Italian pair Laura Bruschini and Annamaria Solazzi drub Vasiliki Karadassou and Efrossini Sifri of Greece.

German girls first into semis



FOOTBALL

SYDNEY, Sept 16: Germany beat Brazil 2-1 Saturday to become the first team to secure their place in the semi-finals of the Olympic women's football tournament, reports AFP.

Australia and Sweden fought out a 1-1 draw in Sydney in the other Group E match, leaving both sides with a chance of qualifying.

The win in Canberra left the Germans with an unassailable lead at the top of group E after a 3-0 win over Australia in their opening clash.

Each must now win their final group match on Tuesday — Australia play Brazil, while Sweden meet the Germans — and hope the other result goes their way to qualify for the last four alongside the Germans.

GERMANY - 2, BRAZIL - 1

Two strikes from centre-forward Birgit Prinz — the first a spectacular volley from the edge of the area — put the Germans in control of their match by half-time.

But they were forced to hold out against some late pressure after midfielder Raquel pulled one back for the Brazilians with a 30-yard drive 16 minutes from time.

SWEDEN - 1, AUSTRALIA - 1

Swedish captain Marlin Andersson was responsible for keeping her side's hopes alive, blasting home a penalty midway through the second-half to restore parity after tall Australian defender Cheryl Salisbury had headed the Matildas into a 56th minute lead.

Andersson was cut down inside the box by a clumsy challenge from Danielle Alagich and stepped up to earn her side a well deserved point.

It was Andersson, who came closest to breaking the deadlock in a scrappy first-half with a speculative cross-shot, which hit the crossbar, as the Swedes superior footballing skills were neutralised by the host nation's more physical approach.

Australia took the lead against the run of play with the first chance of the second period.

Bye, bye Olyroos

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heeb scored two stunning goals as Kuwait battled back from a goal down against the Czech Republic.

Kuwait, who lost their opening match 3-2 to Cameroon, had appeared to be heading for an early flight home when Marek Heinz put the Czechs ahead after only two minutes.

But after Khalaf Almutairi had equalised, ten minutes after the break, they overpowered their supposedly superior opposition with some wonderful flowing football.

Laheeb's first strike came at the end of a sweeping move out of defence that carved the Czech defence apart. His second was the goal of the tournament so far — a beautifully flighted chip over Czech goalkeeper Jaroslav Drobný that ended in the top corner.

Big defender Roman Lengyel headed home in injury time for the Czechs.

USA - 1, CAMEROON - 1

Squandered chances cost the United States dear in Canberra.

Both Josh Wolff and Conor Casey spurned a series of opportunities that should have allowed the Americans to wrap up the three points long before the finish.

As it was they needed a 65th minute penalty from Pete Vagenas to cancel out Cameroon's 16th minute opener. Patrick Mboma slotted home for the Africans after Jeff Agoos pulled down Lauren Etame Mayer in the box.

Bundesliga

Kaiserslautern's dramatic win

BERLIN, Sept 15 (Reuters/Internet): Kaiserslautern scored twice and had a player sent off in a dramatic last two minutes as they beat Cologne 3-1 in the Bundesliga on Friday.

3-0: Zimmbabwe Cricket New Zealand Tour Of Zimbabwe bulawayo, Zimbabwe New Zealand Vs Zimbabwe 1st Test, Day 5, Highlights 730 Nba Inside Stuff 2000 8:00 Sanzar

Domestic Competitions New Zealand Provincial Championships Div 1 Hamilton, New Zealand Southland Vs Waikato Round 4 10:00 Asia Sport Show 10:30 World Wrestling Federation Metal 11:30 This Is The Pga Tour 12:30 Asian Basketball Show 1:00 New Zealand Tour Of Zimbabwe bulawayo, Zimbabwe New Zealand Vs Zimbabwe 1st Test, Day 5, Highlights 730 Nba Inside Stuff 2000 8:00 Sanzar

Event Highlights 11:30 Live-Spanish Football League 2000/01

ESPAN 17-Sep-2000 7:00 Western Union World Football 7:30 International Cricket Lg Cup 1999 Zimbabwe Vs India 6th Odi, Highlights 8:30 English Premier Football League 10:30 International Cricket Lg Cup 1999 Zimbabwe Vs India 6th Odi, Highlights 11:30 English Premier Football League 1:30 Sportscenter International Edition 2:00 Australia Cricket International Cricket Tri Series Brisbane, Australia Pakistan Vs India 2nd Odi, 1st Session 5:30 Australia Cricket International Cricket Tri Series Brisbane, Australia Pakistan Vs India 2nd Odi, 2nd Session 9:00 Live-English Premier Football

League Manchester, England-Middlesbrough Vs Manchester City 11:00 Australia Cricket International Cricket Tri Series Adelaide, Australia India Vs Pakistan 9th Odi, 1st Session 1:30 Australia Cricket International Cricket Tri Series Adelaide, Australia India Vs Pakistan 9th Odi, 2nd Session

DISCOVERY CHANNEL 6:30 Go For It! 7:30 Ushuala 8:30 Wings 9:30 Crocodile Hunter's Croc Files 10:30 Jaws & Claws 11:30 Buck Staghorn's Animal Bites 12:00 Naturequest 11:30 Going Wild With Jeff Corwin 12:00 Born Among Wild Animals 12:30 Blue Reef Adventures 1:00 Two Worlds

1:30 Shark Week 6:30 Discovery Profile Series 7:30 Vital Breakthroughs 8:30 Lifetime 9:30 Science Frontiers 10:30 Discovery Showcase 12:30 Vital Breakthroughs 1:30 Lifetime 2:30 Science Frontiers 3:30 Discovery Showcase 4:30 Discovery Profile Series 5:30 Discovery Magazine

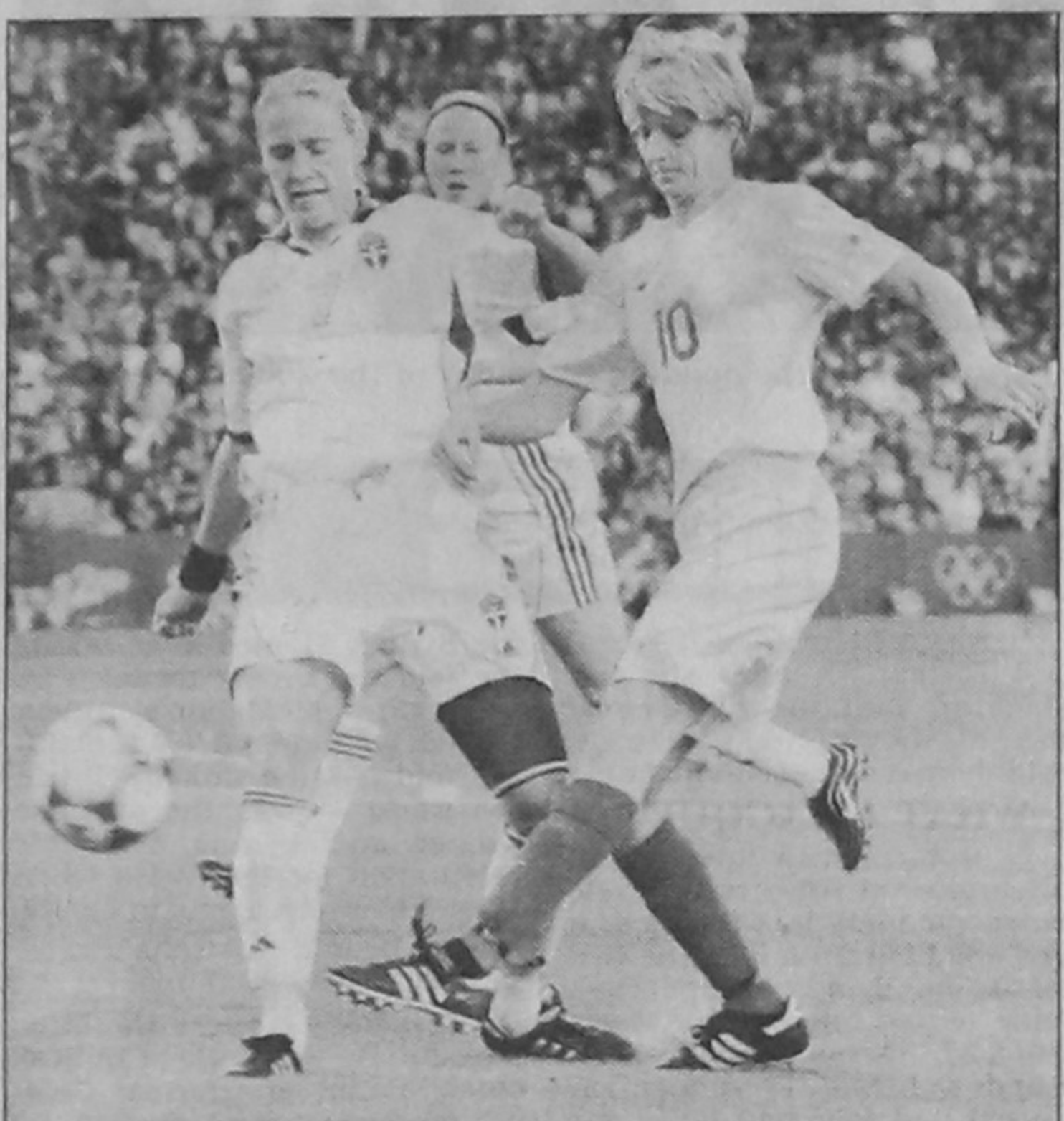
ATN 5:30 Islamic Program 6:32 Child Drama Series 7:30 New Film Songs 7:50 Drama Series 8:25 Alif Laila 9:00 Musical Prog 9:35 Magazine Prog 10:10 Drama Serial 10:45 Magazine Prog 11:15 Bangla Film-Shantana 6:32 Discovery Showcase 7:10 Magazine Prog 7:50 Musical Prog 8:25 Fashion Show 9:00 Musical Prog 9:35 Musical Prog 10:10 Drama Serial 10:45 Bangla Film-Darling

Substitute Sharon Black swung in a free-kick from the left and Salisbury rose highest to power a header past Caroline Joansson in the Swedish goal.

In a frantic final ten minutes both sides pushed forward in search of the winner but neither had the necessary composure in front of goal.



Germany's Renate Lingor (L) tries to tackle Brazilian Roseli de Belo during their Olympic Games preliminary round football match at the Bruce Stadium in Canberra yesterday. —AFP photo



Swede Cecilia Sandell (L) and Sunni Hughes of Australia are engaged in a battle for possession during their Olympic Games football preliminary round clash at the Sydney Stadium yesterday. —AFP photo

FOOTBALL TABLES

SYDNEY, Sept 16 (AFP): Olympic football tables on Saturday:

| MEN | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|--|--|
| Group A | | | | | | | | | |
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | | |
| Italy | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 6 | | |
| Nigeria | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 4 | | |
| Honduras | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 1 | | |
| Australia | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | | |
| Group C | | | | | | | | | |
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | | |
| Cameroon | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 | | |
| Kuwait | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 | | |
| USA | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | | |
| Czech Rep | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | | |
| WOMEN | | | | | | | | | |
| Group A | | | | | | | | | |
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | | |
| Germany | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 6 | | |
| Brazil | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | | |
| Sweden | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | |
| Australia | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | | |



Czech Republic custodian Jaroslav Drobný thwarts a Kuwait attack during their Olympic Games preliminary round football fixture at Gabba in Brisbane yesterday. —AFP photo

Thorpedo

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trover, and then I had to put up with the swimsuit disaster."

The self-possessed teenager has not only battled back from the broken ankle suffered in May of 1999, he has adroitly dealt with insinuations of doping.

As his first Olympics approached he was embroiled in controversy over his swimsuit, because he is sponsored by Adidas and Nike supplies the Australian team.

"I can't say what I feel like right now," Thorpe said. "It's so amazing to walk out in front of the crowd and win in front of them."

Klim led off the history-making relay with a world record 100m free of 48.18sec, bettering Russian Alexander Popov's 48.21 of 1994.

The United States relay swimmers didn't go home empty-handed of gold, however.

The US women's team of Amy Van Dyken, Dara Torres, Courtney Shealy and Jenny Thompson won in 3:36.61, slicing more than a second off the previous world record of 3:37.91 set by China on September 7, 1994.

It was the second women's world record previously held by China to fall on Saturday.

Klochkova bettered the previous 400m medley record of 4:34.79, set by China's Chen Yan on October 13, 1997. Chen, the only Chinese swimming world champion from 1998 on the team in Sydney, failed to qualify for the final.

Japan's Yasuko Tajima was second in the medley, and Romania's Beatrice Caslaru took the bronze medal.

Italy's Massimiliano Rosolino, setting a European record, was second to Thorpe in the freestyle, and American Klete Keller was third.

Happy to be

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"It was a great honour to march under the banner of the Olympic flag," he said.

"I was so exhilarated because I had waited for three months for that moment and the time had arrived."

Team manager Frank Fowle paid tribute to both De Araujo and the Australian crowds.

"He's an effervescent and ebullient little character — every class needs a clown," he said.

The UN worker said the team's reception at the opening ceremony had emphasised the special relationship between Australia and Timor, stand on end," he said. "There were almost as many people in the stadium as there are in our capital Dili."

De Araujo was one of ten Timorese athletes who received scholarships to spend two months training at Darwin, Northern Australia.

The four deemed to have made the most progress were chosen to represent the fledgling country in Sydney.

De Araujo said the facilities they encountered on arrival were on a different level to anything they had experienced back in their homeland.

"We trained without equipment in Dili. All the equipment was lost or burned," he said. "We trained with cement bricks, sand bags and tyres — anything that we could lift."

His teammates, marathon duo Aguida Amaral and Calisto Da Costa, and boxer Vire Vire Ramos will hope the occasion and crowd support can lift them to similarly inspirational performances.

East Timor was left in ruins last year when Indonesian-backed militias launched an orgy of violence and destruction as they withdrew following an independence ballot.

The tiny former Portuguese colony had been annexed by Indonesia in 1975.

Indian pair

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prospect.

"We have got a billion people back home lifting us up to higher heights and that is something we use to our advantage."

Woodforde meanwhile said the Indians, who face Romanian duo Andrei Pavel and Gabriel Trifu in the first round, would have the advantage of having played a match here before the scheduled clash. As top seeds, the Australians have a bye into the second round.

"We just have to be ready," Woodforde said. "But I'm sure if we can get by the Indians things might be a little bit easier for us."

"When you are the world's best there is a target on your back, everyone wants to beat you, they want to knock you off. Sometimes that can be a bit of a heavy weight on your shoulders."



Argentine Masotta Karina (C) trying to make her way through South Koreans Kim Seong-Eun (L) and Oh Ka-Woon during their Olympic Games women's hockey preliminary round encounter in Sydney yesterday. —AFP photo

ROK eves start on wrong foot



HOCKEY

SYDNEY, Sept 16: Unfancied Argentina gave the Olympic women's hockey a stunning start by coming from behind to upset South Korea 3-2 here on Saturday, reports AFP.

New Zealand added to the opening day's drama when Mandy Smith scored off a penalty corner two minutes from the end to force Germany to a 1-1 draw.

The Koreans, silver-medallists at Atlanta four years ago and one of the favoured teams in the 10-nation event, led 2-1 at half-time of the opening game of the tournament.

Argentina, however, turned the group A match around with a dazzling display in the second-half before a near full house at the 15,000-seater State Hockey Stadium here. Luciana Aynar equalised for the Pan-American champions with a field goal nine minutes after the break, before Jorgelina

Rimoldi struck the match-winner two minutes before the end.

It was a treasured win for Argentina, returning to the Olympics after 12 years by defeating the United States in the final of the Pan-American Games in Canada last year.

The Koreans had themselves to blame for the unexpected reverse, wasting 11 scoring opportunities during the fast-paced match.

The Korean defence also looked sluggish as Argentina took the lead in the ninth minute through captain Karina Masotta's shot from the top of the circle.

South Korea drew level in the 20th through Shin Mi-kyung and went 2-1 up two minutes before half-time when Cho Bo-Ra banged in a penalty corner.

"Too good, too good," said a jubilant Argentine manager Claudia Medici as her players hugged one another after the final whistle.

"With a result like this in our first match, we can go far. But we will not be complacent."

South Korean manager Kim Gye blamed the defeat on the missed chances.

"We had so many shots at the goal that the margin should have been 10-0," Kim said.

"But we will come back in the other games. We have to."

Defending champions Australia, Britain and Spain are the other three teams in the tough group. Three teams out of the five will advance to the medal pool round.

The group B match between Germany and New Zealand

came alive in the second half after both sides struggled to beat the rival defences in the dull opening session.

The Germans, who won silver medals at the Los Angeles Games in 1984 and again in Barcelona in 1992, paid for a missed penalty stroke by Britta Becker midway through the second half.

Becker pushed to the right of Kiwi goalkeeper Helen Clarke, who stretched out to palm the ball away.

Germany, however, took the lead in the 56th minute when Heike Laetzsch scooped home following a penalty corner.

New Zealand pressed for the equaliser and were rewarded with three successive penalty corners towards the end.

Smith, who had narrowly missed scoring off the second, found the mark the next time to help her team share valuable points.

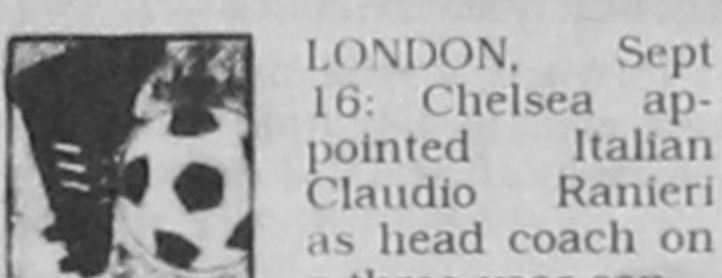
The 28-year-old from Auckland, voted the most sporting personality of the World Cup two years ago, said the result would have a positive effect on her teammates.

"We played our hearts out and deserved to share points," she said. "We could even have won, but we'll do better next time."

New Zealand only confirmed their rising stature in the women's game, having won the bronze at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in 1998 and finishing a creditable sixth at the World Cup.

The Netherlands, China and South Africa are the other three teams in the group.

Chelsea turns to Ranieri



LONDON, Sept 16: Chelsea appointed Italian Claudio Ranieri as head coach on a three-year contract here Friday, reports AFP.

The former Napoli, Fiorentina, Valencia and Atletico Madrid coach is the third consecutive foreigner to take charge of the team, succeeding compatriot Gianluca Vialli, who took over from Ruud Gullit.

But, significantly, Ranieri has been appointed as head

Kahn may miss Unterhaching game

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COLOGNE, Germany, Sept 16: Oliver Kahn's bruised thigh, which he picked up in Wednesday's Champions League game at Helsingborgs in Sweden, is proving more painful than expected and he may miss Bayern Munich's derby Saturday evening at Unterhaching, reports AFP.

"We will only make a decision on whether to name him shortly before kick-off. It's an hour by hour situation," Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said.

Giovane Elber, however, is certain to make his comeback Saturday after four months out of the game with a broken foot incurred while training with Brazil.

"I have trained hard, it's been a bit like a training camp with two sessions a day," Elber said on his personal internet homepage. "I am feeling fit in how though and really looking forward to playing."

coach and not manager.

Despite speculation since Vialli's controversial sacking on Tuesday that the club might go for a more high-profile replacement, they turned instead to the experienced figure of 48-year-old Ranieri.

"Claudio has been appointed as head coach, which will be slightly different to Luca's role," Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson said. "He will only be concentrating on the first-team squad, the coaching and the tactics."

Hutchinson added: "The administration will be solely handled at the training ground as far as the team is concerned by Gwyn Williams, who is termed assistant manager but in Italy he would be called the manager as that is the administration role."

The Italian will be at the helm when Chelsea take on Leicester in the English Premiership on Sunday.

Ranieri was the strongest contender on a shortlist that was said to include Valencia coach Hector Cuper and ex-Germany boss Bert Vogts.

The 48-year-old Ranieri watched Chelsea's 1-0 win over St Gallen in the UEFA Cup first round, first leg on Thursday night from the director's box.

Ranieri received a call from Chelsea on Monday night inviting him to London and said he would have a meeting with Chelsea officials on Friday morning.

"I was flattered by the call. If there are roses they will bloom," the hopeful Italian had said.

Ranieri spent a good deal of Thursday talking with Bates and Hutchinson over a possible move to Stamford Bridge.

"I spent three hours with him (Ranieri) talking about football," said Hutchinson. "I wanted to know about his philosophy on the game and his ideas."

"He has a very good reputation in football and hopefully the talks will go well."

Ranieri, a former Roma player, made his name as a coach of Sardinian club Cagliari whom he led from Serie C to Serie A.

He then worked as coach of Cagliari's