

## Dutch demolition

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Italian Massimiliano Rosolino, silver medalist behind Thorpe in the 400m free, took the bronze in 1:46.65.

American Lenny Krayzelburg, who like Thorpe set the Olympic pool alight at the Pan Pacific championships in August of 1999, couldn't match his world record in the 100m backstroke.

But he emerged with the prize he came for: Olympic gold. "This is better than anything I've ever done," the world champion said. "In this sport you're judged by Olympic medals."

Krayzelburg, holder of all three backstroke world records, won in a Games record 53.72, fending off Aussie Matt Welsh who took the silver in 54.07. Germany's Steen Theloke took the bronze in 54.82.

"It's a big monkey off my back," Krayzelburg said of his first Olympic title. "I'm very relieved."

Although the Soviet-born California is normally the picture of calm, he admitted to nerves on an Olympian scale.

"I thought three swims would be enough," he said. "But I was nervous. I had a hard time sleeping last night."

Penney Heys, winner of both breaststroke gold medals in Atlanta, couldn't hang on to her 100m title.

Breaststroke babies Megan Quann of the United States and Liesel Jones of Australia relegated South Africa's world record-holder to bronze.

Quann, 16, won in 1:07.05, while Jones, who turned 15 on August 30, took the silver in 1:07.49 ahead of Heys' 1:07.55.

Romania's Diana Mocanu, 16, won the women's 100m backstroke in an Olympic record 1:00.21. Japan's Mai Nakamura was second in 1:00.55, and Spain's Nina Zhivanevskaya was third in 1:00.89.

## Popov after

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That means out of the hands of Holland's Pieter van den Hoogenband and American Gary Hall Jr.

While Hall has been itching for a victory over Popov after taking silver in both the 50m and 100m free in Atlanta, van den Hoogenband has done what no other swimmer could do in the past eight years: beat Popov in the 100m free at a major international competition.

Van den Hoogenband stunned the Russian in the 50m and 100m free at the 1999 European Championships in Istanbul.

The 28-year-old Popov seemed adrift, saying in April that his appetite for swimming and winning was gone.

"I have lost an interest in swimming fast, that's feeling of racing and the hunger," he said.

"This Olympics I am going to do with a smile on my face, to take it easy for once in my life and to enjoy it."

In characteristically contrary fashion, however, Popov found his motivation. At the European Championships in Helsinki in June he broke Tom Jager's 10-year-old world record in the 50m free and left van den Hoogenband in his wake.

"He's done an amazing thing this year, coming back," the young Dutch swimmer said. "He's so amazingly strong."

Popov's physical and mental strength were tested to the limit shortly after the 1996 Olympics, when he was stabbed on a Moscow street.

Ten hours of emergency surgery repaired his lung and kidneys, and he returned to win the 100m free at the 1998 World Championships.

"He's got a belief in himself that he has this ability, and it has an ability probably like no swimmer that we've ever seen," Australian backstroker Nicole Stevenson, a former training partner, said of Popov. "He's just awesome."

## Bribe for

From page 13

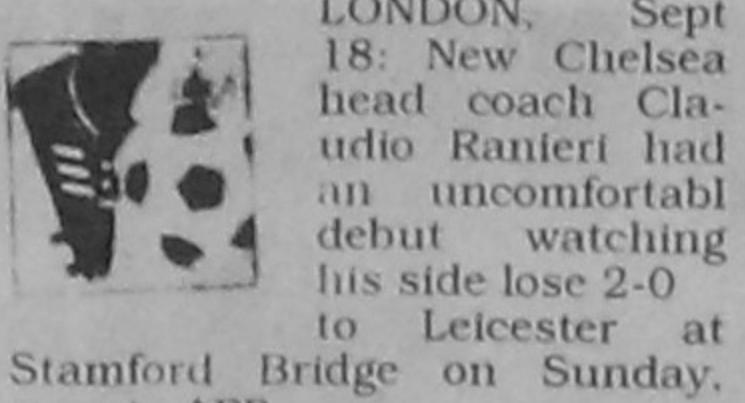
The 35 have been under scrutiny from the opening bout. Besides the spy cameras, a special AIBA commission was formed just to keep an eye out for any problems. Scoring is analysed daily, with commission members on the lookout for any discrepancies that might be suspicious.

The judges and referees are very aware of the problems and the fact their performance has to be exemplary," Baker said. "We have to prove the other people who criticise our sport wrong."

That doesn't mean, of course, that boxing is home free. Which is precisely why Baker made his bribe offer.

## Premiership

## Ranieri doesn't inspire Chelsea



LONDON, Sept 18: New Chelsea head coach Claudio Ranieri had an uncomfortable debut watching his side lose 2-0 to Leicester at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

The Italian, who officially takes charge on Monday following the dismissal of Gianluca Vialli last Tuesday, saw former Chelsea midfielder Muzzy Izzet give the visitors an early lead after eight minutes and then witnessed team-mates Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Christian Panucci involved in a furious row.

Stan Collymore heaped further misery on the London club by scoring Leicester's second eight minutes from time.

Leicester are now joint top of the Premiership, level on points with reigning champions Manchester United, who have a vastly superior goal difference.

Liverpool stay fourth in the table after securing a point in a 1-1 draw at West Ham.

England international midfielder Steven Gerrard gave the Merseysiders the lead after 12 minutes but Italian Paolo di Canio levelled from the penalty spot with 21 minutes to go.

Premiership newcomers Manchester City were held 1-1 by Middlesbrough at Maine Road. Italian Gianluca Festa opened the scoring for the visitors and Costa Rican international Paolo Wanchope hit the equaliser.

Chelsea were caught napping when Neil Lennon whipped in a cross from the right and Izzet nipped between the static Winston Bogarde and Marcel Desailly to head past Carlo Cudicini.

The game also saw the amazing sight of Hasselbaink storming biack down the pitch during a stoppage and furiously shouting at team-mate Panucci

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