

Star Sport

Dhaka, Wednesday, September 20, 2000, e-mail: dssports@bdonline.com



Ancient Olympics

The ancient Olympics were rather different from the modern Games. There were fewer events, and only free men who spoke Greek could compete instead of athletes from any country. Also, the games were always held at Olympia instead of moving around to different sites every time.

Like today's Olympics, though, winning athletes were heroes who put their hometowns on the map. One young Athenian nobleman defended his political reputation by mentioning how he entered seven chariots in the Olympic chariot-race. This high number of entries made both the aristocrat and Athens look very wealthy and powerful.

Hijack break

SYDNEY, Sept 19: An official Olympic van with a Korean team official and three Games volunteers aboard was hijacked Tuesday by two escaped prisoners, sparking a major hunt near the Olympic Stadium, reports AFP.

The Korean and one of the volunteer workers were immediately thrown from the hijacked Toyota Tarago, but the driver was ordered by the escapees to drive off with the other Olympic worker, a pregnant woman, still aboard.

Police said the pair were freed unharmed minutes later after the prisoners dumped the van and fled on foot towards a railway station in the western suburb of Sydenham.

Prison officers gave chase but were unable to catch the offenders.

"Two occupants of the vehicle were taken a short distance and then released unharmed," a police spokeswoman said.

An ambulance was summoned to treat the pregnant woman who was taken to a nearby hospital as a precaution.

A Korean team spokesman confirmed a Korean Olympic team official and three Olympic volunteers from Australia's Korean community were in the van.

The two prisoners had scaled a fence to break out of Silverwater jail, which adjoins the Olympic athletes' village.

Corrective Services Minister Bob Debus denied the breakout had embarrassed Australia at a time when a heavy security presence has been clamped around the Olympic site.

Africans power into qtrs

FOOTBALL

Agali was hauled down by Italian goalkeeper Christian Abbiati.

But Azubuike Oliseh was dismissed on the hour for bringing down Ighil Vannucchi on the edge of the box and four minutes later Roberto Baroni - the Italian skipper - volleyed home via a helpful deflection off Gbengq Okunawa.

The Italians will now meet the runner-up from Group B in the quarter-finals at Sydney but coach Marco Tardelli is wary of their switch to the host city.

"We would feel better playing at the Melbourne stadium. Sydney is an unknown," he said.

NIGERIA - 1; ITALY - 1

Nigeria - the gold medal winner in Atlanta four years ago - needed a point against Italy, who had already qualified, in their Group A clash to ensure their progress and gained precisely that.

The Super Eagles took the lead six minutes before half-time with a penalty from captain Garba Lawal after Victor

Agali was hauled down by Italian goalkeeper Christian Abbiati.

The point for Nigeria meant Honduras' 2-1 win over Australia, who lost all three of their matches, was in vain.

David Suazo's brace cancelled out Jaime Rosales' own goal and put paid to the hosts who will want to forget this competition.

"It's almost unbelievable that we came away empty-handed," said Australian coach Raul Blanco.

"We played three good games and the team gave everything they had."

USA - 3; KUWAIT - 1

The United States defeated Kuwait 3-1 to qualify as winners of Group C on goal difference after Cameroon could only draw with the Czech Republic.

They next meet the second-placed side in Group D - to be revealed Wednesday but either Japan, Brazil or South Africa - for a place in the last four.

After a slow start the Americans took the lead just before the interval when an unmarked Danny Califf nodded Agoos' corner past an exposed Shehab Kankone in Kuwait's goal.

Kuwait were unable to repeat Saturday's second-half performance which saw them come from two down to beat the Czech Republic and Chris Allbright added a second in the

final minute.

See page 15

HONDURAS - 2; AUSTRALIA - 1

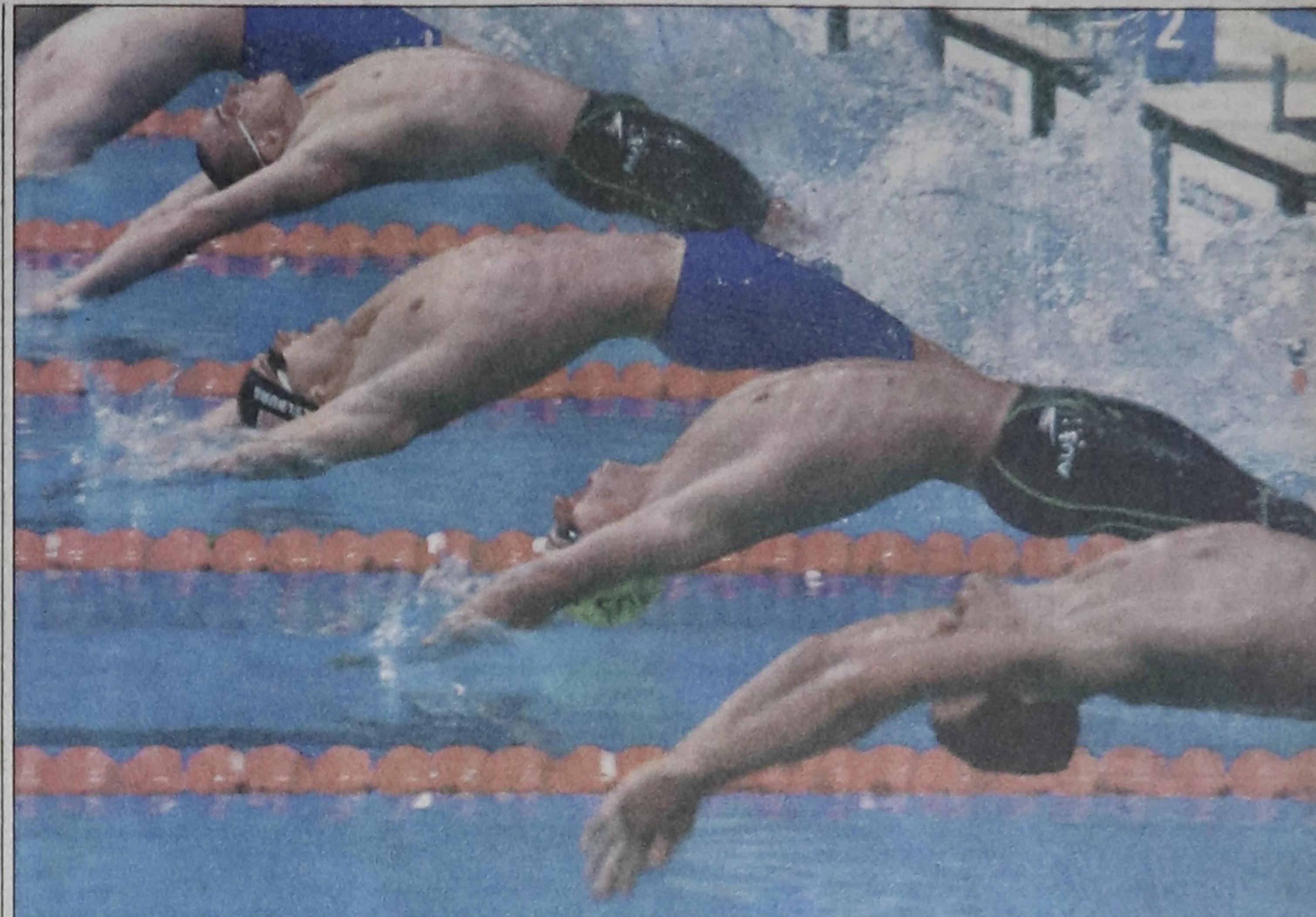
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BRIDGE OVER POOL WATERS! American Lenny Krayzelburg (3rd from R) and fellow competitors in action during the 100 metres backstroke final at the Sydney International Aquatic Centre on September 18. Krayzelburg won the gold with an Olympic record timing of 00:53.72 seconds.

-AFP photo



HOT PERSUIT: Bright Ighinadolor of Nigeria (R) and Italian captain Roberto Baroni chasing the ball during their men's football competition meeting at Adelaide yesterday. -Internet photo

Medals Stand



SYDNEY, Sept 19 (AFP) - Final updated Olympic medals table on the fourth day of the Sydney Games Tuesday.

USA G S B T

	G	S	B	T
USA	7	6	5	18
Australia	6	5	6	17
China	6	2	7	15
France	5	6	2	13
Japan	3	3	1	7
Italy	3	2	3	8
Netherlands	3	1	1	5
Russia	2	4	3	9
Germany	2	3	2	7
Ukraine	2	3	0	5
Bulgaria	2	1	1	4
Romania	2	1	1	4
Turkey	2	0	0	2
South Korea	1	4	3	8
Great Britain	1	3	2	6
Sweden	1	2	1	4
Croatia	1	0	0	1
Lithuania	1	0	0	1
Mexico	1	0	0	1
Slovakia	0	3	1	4
Belarus	0	1	2	3
Brazil	0	1	1	2
Greece	0	1	1	2
North Korea	0	1	1	2
Chinese Taipei	0	1	0	1
Belgium	0	0	2	2
Costa Rica	0	0	2	2
Indonesia	0	0	2	2
Estonia	0	0	1	1
Georgia	0	0	1	1
India	0	0	1	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1	1
Latvia	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
South Africa	0	0	1	1
Thailand	0	0	1	1

Matildas shown the Olyroos way

FOOTBALL

SYDNEY, Sept 19: Brazil booked their place in the semi-finals of the women's Olympic football tournament here Tuesday, coming from a goal down to knock out hosts Australia with a 2-1 win in a hard-fought Group E battle, reports AFP.

Brazil went through with four points behind group winners Germany who made it three wins out of three with a 1-0 victory over Sweden in Melbourne.

BRAZIL - 2; AUSTRALIA - 1

Brazil overcame a brave fight by the Matildas before second-half goals from Raquel and Katia saw them safely through to the Sydney Football Stadium.

The match ended dramatically when the Australians had a last-minute strike disallowed before a stark-naked streaker sprinted onto the pitch.

The Australians protested the decision to bar their equaliser, but a draw would not have been enough to stop them from going out.

The Australians had needed to beat Brazil to have any chance of advancing through to the semi-finals and had vowed to pressure the South Americans from the outset.

But it was Brazil who looked the more attack-minded in the first half an hour, moving the ball around in

Kenyan star kicked out

SYDNEY, Sept 19: Kenyan relay star Simon Kembui was out of the Olympic Games Tuesday, after the sport's governing body the IAAF revealed he had tested positive for anabolic steroids, reports AFP.

He failed a test conducted by IAAF president Lamine Diack who said both athletes had been caught with the controversial drug nandrolone in their system.

midfield snappily and stretching the Australian defence with ease.

Clear-cut chances were thin on the ground for the South Americans though and as both teams got frustrated thereckless tackles soon started flying thick and fast.

The best early opening fell to Matildas forward Alicia Ferguson, but the 18-year-old made a hash of a good chance when she scooped over the bar from six yards out.

But in the 34th minute Australia took the lead with a spectacular effort from Sonia Hughes.

Ferguson swung a speculative ball in from the left flank to Hughes.

Nothing appeared to be on, but she trapped the ball on her

thigh, flicked it up over a defender before rounding Tania and unleashing a ferocious right-foot effort from the edge of the area.

The Matildas finished the half strongly and with Brazil clearly rattled, could afford to be optimistic at the start of the second-half.

But the hosts fell apart after a defensive mix-up, which led to Brazil's equaliser.

Three Australian defenders failed to clear from just outside the area, and Raquel seized on the loose ball and chipped Tracey Wheeler in the Australian goal for a memorable goal on 56 minutes.

The Australians fell behind again to Katia, finding herself unmarked and drilling home past a disengaged Wheeler in the home goal.

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