



## 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.

# Africans power into qtrs

## FOOTBALL

**SYDNEY, Sept 19:** African pair Nigeria and Cameroon joined Italy and the United States in advancing to the quarterfinals of the Olympic men's football tournament Tuesday, reports AFP.

### 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 captain Garba Lawal after Victor

Agali was hauled down by Italian goalkeeper Christian Abbiati.

But Azubuike Olieh 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 Gbenga Okunowu.

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.

### HONDURAS - 2; AUSTRALIA - 1

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

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## 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.



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

# 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 at 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 anyway 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 semis and had vowed to pressure the South Americans from the outset.

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

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 the reckless 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.

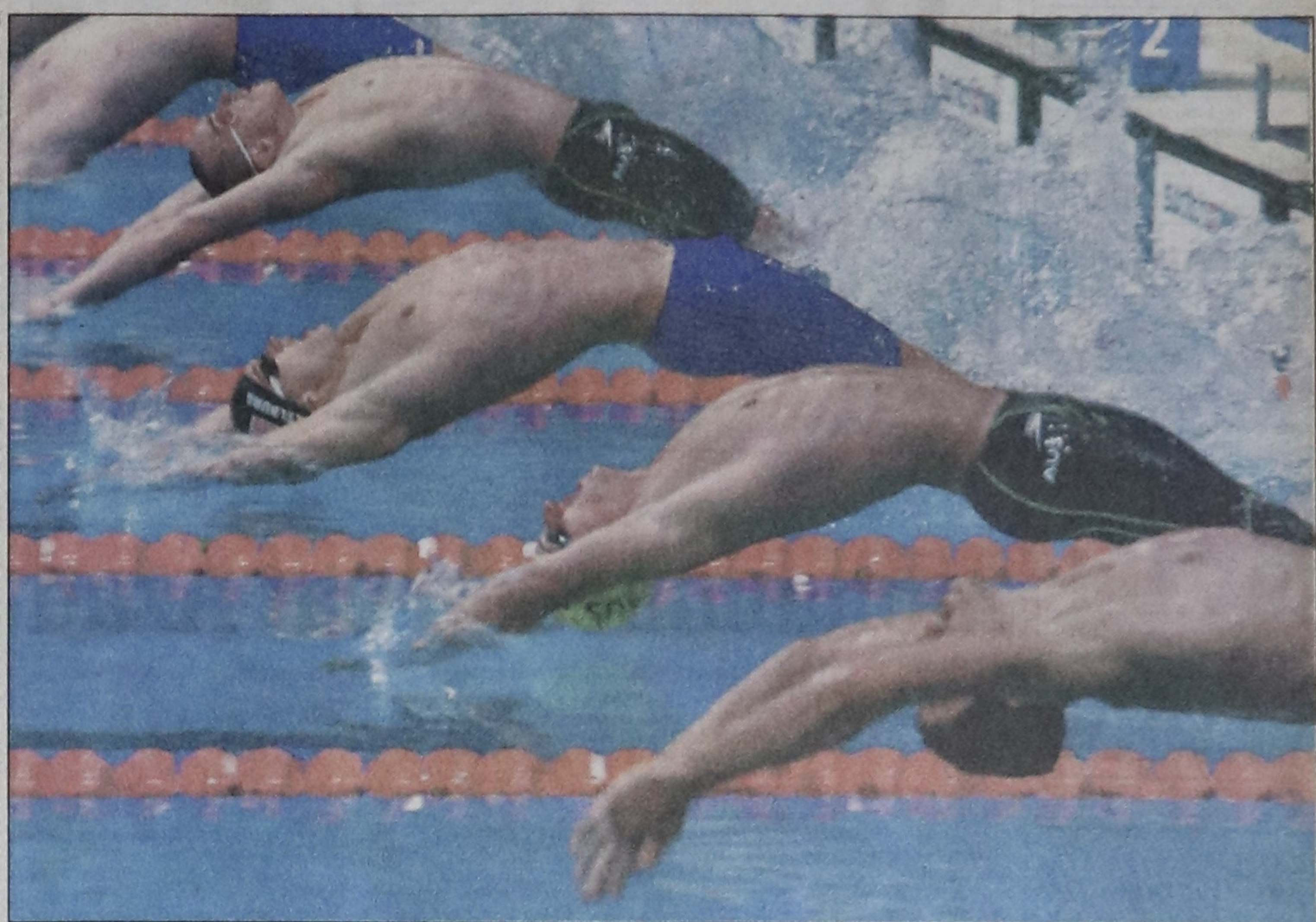
Three Australian defenders failed to clear from just outside the area, and Raquel seized on the loose ball and chipped Tracey Wheeler in the Australian goal for a memorable goal on 56 minutes.

The Australians fell behind on 64 minutes with poor defending again to blame, Katia finding herself unmarked and drilling home past a disgusted Wheeler in the home goal.

### GERMANY - 1; SWEDEN - 0

In the other Group E match played in Melbourne, Sweden needed to beat Germany -- who had already gone through -- to have any chance of remaining in the competition.

The German women never looked like doing their Scandinavian opponents a favour however, and had by far the better opportunities in a rain-soaked encounter at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, before Ariane Hingst scored in the dying minutes to seal her team's win.



**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

# Flying Dutchman Blunder Down Under

## SWIMMING

**SYDNEY, Sept 19:** Pieter van den Hoogenband staked his claim to freestyle greatness with a stunning 47.84sec in the 100m on Tuesday, but even he couldn't make a dent in Australia's record-setting race to the 4x200m free relay Olympic gold, reports AFP.

"He's the greatest 200-100 freestyle man in the world, there's no doubt about it," American Josh Davis said of Van den Hoogenband's swim in the 100m free semifinals.

"He did the fastest 100m free ever and made it look like it was really easy. He didn't even have a great start or a great turn, and he said he didn't get any sleep last night."

Van den Hoogenband, 22, was up most of the night Monday, mulling over his 200m freestyle triumph over Australia's Olympic darling, Ian Thorpe.

The dazzling Dutch swimmer set a world record in the semis of that event, too, and matched it in the final.

"I didn't get any sleep last night," he said. "I stayed up thinking about the 200. When I got back to the village everyone was congratulating me."

In the 100m free, it was Australian Michael Klim who kissed his world record goodbye. Klim had set the mark of 48.18 just four days earlier in the 4x100m free relay.

Thorpe, Klim, Todd Pearson and William Kirby extracted a measure of revenge when they crushed the 4x200m free relay world record with a time of 7:07.05 -- wiping nearly two seconds off Australia's previous record of 7:08.79.

It was the 10th world record in four days of Olympic swimming competition.

The Australians finished 10 metres ahead of the United States, who clawed their way to silver ahead of the Dutch, despite van den Hoogenband's anchor split of 1:44.88.

The United States finished in 7:12.64 and the Netherlands in 7:12.70.

Although Van den Hoogenband's relay split can't count as a world record, it certainly betrayed no sign of the fatigue he spoke of.

And Van den Hoogenband's assessment of his 100m free performance was an ominous warning to Klim and two-time defending champion Alexander Popov, the third-fastest qualifier.

He said he didn't go all-out, because he was saving himself for the relay.

"I didn't give it my best," he said. "I think I can go one-tenth faster tomorrow."

Susie O'Neill gave Australia

## Curfew violation

**SYDNEY, Sept 19:** Two Australian swimmers who violated the team curfew at the Olympic Village have been reprimanded and apologised, the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) said Tuesday, reports AFP.

The swimmers, Anna Windsor and Melanie Dodd, were absent from the village "for an extended period without permission," Chief de Mission John Coates said in statement.

"The girls accept that this was a breach of their obligations as Australian team members and have apologised," said Coates, adding that no further actions would be taken.

lians something to cheer about in the first final of the night, winning the 200m freestyle in a time of 1:58.24.

However, she said the adoring chants of "Susie, Susie, Susie" didn't really improve her swim.

"I tried not to listen because they were putting me off," she said. "I just closed my eyes and tried to swim my own race."

Slovakia's Martina Moravcova was second in 1:58.32 and 1996 gold medalist Claudia Poll was delighted to earn bronze in 1:58.81.

"I'm just glad it's all over," O'Neill said of the victory, which left her free to focus on her 200m fly semifinal later in the evening. "What a relief."

The chants of "Susie" were replaced by "Aussie, Aussie" as she and compatriot Petria Thomas duelled down the stretch of their semi. O'Neill leading the way into the final.

The men's 200m butterfly gold went to America's world record-holder Tom Malchow, in an Olympic record of 1:55.35.

Malchow, the surprise silver medalist in Atlanta, had dreamed of reaching the top step of the podium ever since.

"For four years I wanted this moment," said Malchow, who set the world record in June. "The world record was a little taste of how it would feel."

Denys Sylantsev of Ukraine was second in 1:55.76 and Australian Justin Norris was third in 1:56.17.

Yana Klochkova of Ukraine completed a medley double with a victory in the women's 200m IM. Her time of 2:10.68 was an Olympic record. It came four days after her 400m medley triumph in the first final of the Games -- when she opened the world record floodgates.

Romania's Beatrice Caslaru added a silver to the 400m medley bronze she won on Saturday, and American Cristina Teuscher was third.

## GYMNASTICS

**SYDNEY, Sept 19:** Svetlana Khorkina, who cost Russia a world title last year with the "Great Fall of China," made an Olympian "Blunder Down Under" here Tuesday to help Romania win the Olympic women's team gymnastics crown, reports AFP.

The 21-year-old model and 1997 Playboy pin-up girl fell during a release move in uneven bars -- the event in which she is the reigning world, Olympic and European champion.

Romania won with 154.608 points followed by Russia at 154.403. China was third with 154.008 followed by the United States, Spain and Ukraine.

Romania has won the past four world team championships but had never won an Olympic team title in a non-boycott year.

Russia was set to snap the Romanian world streak last year in China but Khorkina fell from the balance beam on the final rotation, handing Romania the victory. Khorkina made a similar error to squander the all-around crown.

With Olympic gold on the line, Khorkina performed a back flip from the low bar up to the higher one. When she soared backwards over the bar, she could not get a firm grip on the horizontal rod and fell to the mat.

The reigning European all-around champion completed the routine and received a 9.00, but lost the chance to add crucial 10ths of a point to the Russians' overall score.

Ten minutes later, world vault champion Elena Zamolodtchikova fell from the balance beam and received only an 8.862, a bitter fate on her 18th birthday.

And when Ekaterina Lobazniuk, 17, followed with a fall to score 9.175, Russia's fate was all but sealed.

Khorkina wore a frown as she watched her teammates in the final floor exercise rotation, pacing back and forth, her gaze seldom rising from the all-too-familiar floor.

But when Loubazniuk scored 9.75, Zamolodtchikova followed with a 9.775 and Elena Prodounova added a 9.725, the Russians were still .692 shy of Romania, meaning Khorkina would need a 9.995 to bring the Russians gold.

She tumbled and flipped tremendously, "but" not flawlessly. And when the judge's score came up 9.787, Khorkina had lifted the Russians past China for silver but could not do enough to overcome the earlier mistakes.

Romania was led by the top trio of 18-year-old world all-around champion Maria Olaru, 20-year-old reigning Olympic vault champion Simona Amanar and world floor exercise champion Andreea Raducan, 16.

World balance beam runner-up Raducan paced Romania with a stunning 9.837 on the beam and a 9.625 on the vault.

Another 16-year-old Romanian, Andreea Isarescu, came to the rescue on uneven bars, performing last and scoring a team-best 9.687. Amanar's 9.775 floor score was Romania's best.

Khorkina has four more chances to win gold at the Sydney Super Dome, including Thursday's all-around competition and three apparatus finals.

## Irish emptied

**SYDNEY, Sept 19:** Middleweight Michael Roche, Ireland's only boxer at the Sydney Olympics bowed out with barely a whimper Tuesday -- it was left to the passionate Irish supporters to make the occasion memorable, reports AFP.



**ON CLOUD NINE!** Mexico's Soraya Jimenez jumps in ecstasy after her gold medal winning lift in the 58kg category of the weightlifting competition on September 18. -AFP photo



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

	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
Switzerland	1	2	1	4
Cuba	1	1	2	4
Hungary	1	1	0	2
Czech Republic	1	0	2	3
Canada	1	0	1	2
Spain	1	0	1	2
Sweden	1	0	1	2
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
Yugoslavia	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