

Star Sport

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Rings and oath

Just when the routine of the four-year cycle for Games had been established – in Stockholm in 1912 more than one million spectators witnessed a very well-run tournament – World War I crushed any hopes of a 1916 Olympics.

With Belgium still recovering from the devastation of the invasion, Antwerp's selection in 1920 came as a surprise. Antwerp gave the Games the Olympic flag, the inter-linked five rings. For the first time, too, the ceremony included the oath pledged by the athletes:

"In the name of all the competitors I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sports and honour of our teams."

Samba ill at ease

FOOTBALL

SYDNEY. Sept 20: Japan and Chile reached the quarter-finals of the Olympic men's football tournament Wednesday alongside Brazil and Spain despite both sides losing their matches, reports AFP.

Japan's 19 match winning streak came to an abrupt halt as they were beaten 1-0 by Brazil but South Africa's defeat at the hands of Slovakia means Phillippe Troussier's side qualify for the last eight as group D runners-up.

Brazilian skipper Alex scored the decisive goal after just six minutes, ghosting in unmarked at the far post to head home Fabio Aurelio's deep cross.

Giovanni and Fabiano then went close as the South Ameri-

cans dominated the first-half.

Japan stepped up the tempo after the break and in the 56th minute Naohiro Takahara rose highest at a corner to glance his header against the post.

Concerted Japanese pressure followed and Shunsuke Nakamura curled another free-kick just inches wide before Yuji Nakazawa flashed a header from another corner wide with five minutes remaining.

The Brazilian defence stood firm though and Japan's proud run came to an end but they live to fight another day.

"We played the best team at the moment, which is Brazil," Troussier said.

"It was great performance from them and we know what we have to do to beat them in the future."

BRAZIL – 1; JAPAN – 0

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A CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Brazil's hot property Ronaldinho (L) being tightly marked by Japan's Yuji Nakazawa during their crucial Group D encounter at the Gabba in Brisbane yesterday. Brazil scraped through following a hard-fought 1-0 win. – AFP photo

SOUTH KOREA – 1; CHILE – 0

In Group B, Lee Dong-Gook's tenth minute strike was enough to give South Korea victory over a weakened Chile side, who were missing star striker Igor Zamorano through injury.

"We won the Group B but this is not the way we wanted to win. We wanted to finish top, with three victories," said Chilean coach Tello Rodrigo, who confirmed Zamorano would be fit for the quarter-final.

SPAIN – 2; MOROCCO – 0

AC Milan striker Jose Mari put Spain ahead in the 34th minute against Morocco when he hammered home a header by defender Capdevila from close range.

Gabri added a second in the last minute before Moroccan defender Fouzi Elbazi was sent-off in injury time.

Brazil will face Cameroon in the semi-finals, while Japan – whose bronze in 1968 is the only Olympic soccer medal won by an Asian country – meet the United States.

Chile play Nigeria, the defending champions, and the two remaining European sides Spain and Italy go head to head.

All the games take place on Saturday.

All-around Nemov

GYMNASICS

SYDNEY, Sept 20: (Reuters) Final medals table on the fifth day of the Sydney Games on Wednesday:

C	G	S	B
US	10	7	6
Australia	7	8	7
France	6	7	3
China	6	4	7
Netherlands	5	1	2
Italy	4	2	6
Russia	3	7	6
Germany	3	4	4
Japan	3	3	1
Bulgaria	3	1	1
Britain	2	5	2
South Korea	2	4	4
Ukraine	2	3	3
Cuba	2	1	2
Romania	2	1	1
Spain	2	0	1
Turkey	2	0	0
Slovakia	1	3	1
Switzerland	1	2	1
Poland	1	1	0
Hungary	1	1	0
Czech Rep	1	0	3
Sweden	1	0	1
Canada	1	0	1
Mexico	1	0	0
Lithuania	1	0	0
Croatia	1	0	0
Colombia	1	0	0
Brazil	0	2	1
Belarus	0	1	3
South Africa	0	1	1
Taiwan	0	1	1
North Korea	0	1	1
Greece	0	1	1
Yugoslavia	0	1	0
Uruguay	0	1	0
Nigeria	0	1	0
Indonesia	0	0	2
Costa Rica	0	0	2
Belgium	0	0	2
Thailand	0	0	1
Portugal	0	0	1
Latvia	0	0	1
Kuwait	0	0	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1
India	0	0	1
Georgia	0	0	1
Estonia	0	0	1



FLYING ABOVE THE REST: Alexei Nemov, the Russian gymnast going through his rings routine during the men's all-round final at the Super Dome yesterday. Nemov won the gold with a score of 58.474 points.

-- AFP photo



LIU FOR BALANCE: China's Liu Xuan performing her balance beam routine during the women's team event finals yesterday. – Internet photo

Games go Dutch

SWIMMING

Meagher's 19-year-old world record.

SYDNEY, Sept 20: Holland's Pieter van den Hoogenband ended Alexander Popov's eight-year reign as Olympic 100m freestyle champion on Wednesday following his world record-setting semi with a triumph in the final, reports AFP.

In a day that also saw van den Hoogenband's compatriot Inge de Brujin set a new world record of 53.77sec in the women's 100m free semifinals, another once-mighty swimmer was toppled when American Misty Hyman pulled the wings off of Australia's Madam Butterfly, Susie O'Neill, in the 200m fly.

Hyman, who nearly re-

turned as she struggled to convert her technique when her trademark long submerged start was banned, had other ideas.

She led from start to finish to win in an Olympic record 2min 05.88sec, the second fastest of all time.

"I never imagined it would be like this," said Hyman. "When I turned, I said to myself, 'I can do this. I can finish this.'"

Hyman, whose world record stands at 2:05.81, was second in 2:06.58 and Australian Petria Thomas took the bronze in 2:07.12.

"I went as fast as I could to night," O'Neill said.

O'Neill and Thomas then joined in Australia's valiant but futile effort to narrow the gold medal gap to the United States in the 4x200m free relay.

"We have definitely had a lot

X-Olympics

SYDNEY, Sept 20: Brothels in Sydney have mounted an Olympic marketing push, touting "Sprints" "Relays" and "Marathons" in a bid to lure customers in town for the Games, reports AFP.

Sex workers in Sydney, where prostitution is legal, have long been forecasting an Olympic rush and the arrival of the Games prompted an influx of sex workers into Sydney from other parts of Australia and overseas.

But while taxi drivers are complaining about a lack of business, in at least some parts of the city, the Olympic sex rush seems actually to have materialised.

"They're wonderful," she said. "They're very big tippers."

Not all of the visitors to the Olympic city have greeted sex workers with open arms though.

Security officials launched an investigation last week after three prostitutes slipped into the Olympic media village, touting their business for 500 Australian (275 US) dollars an hour to visiting journalists.

Malleswari brings joy to India

NEW DELHI, Sept 20: India was gripped by a wave of euphoria on Tuesday as weightlifter Karnam Malleswari became the first ever Indian woman to win a medal in Olympics, reports DPA.

Malleswari, the third Indian to win an individual medal in any Olympic event bagged the bronze in the women's 69 kilogram category at Sydney on Tuesday.

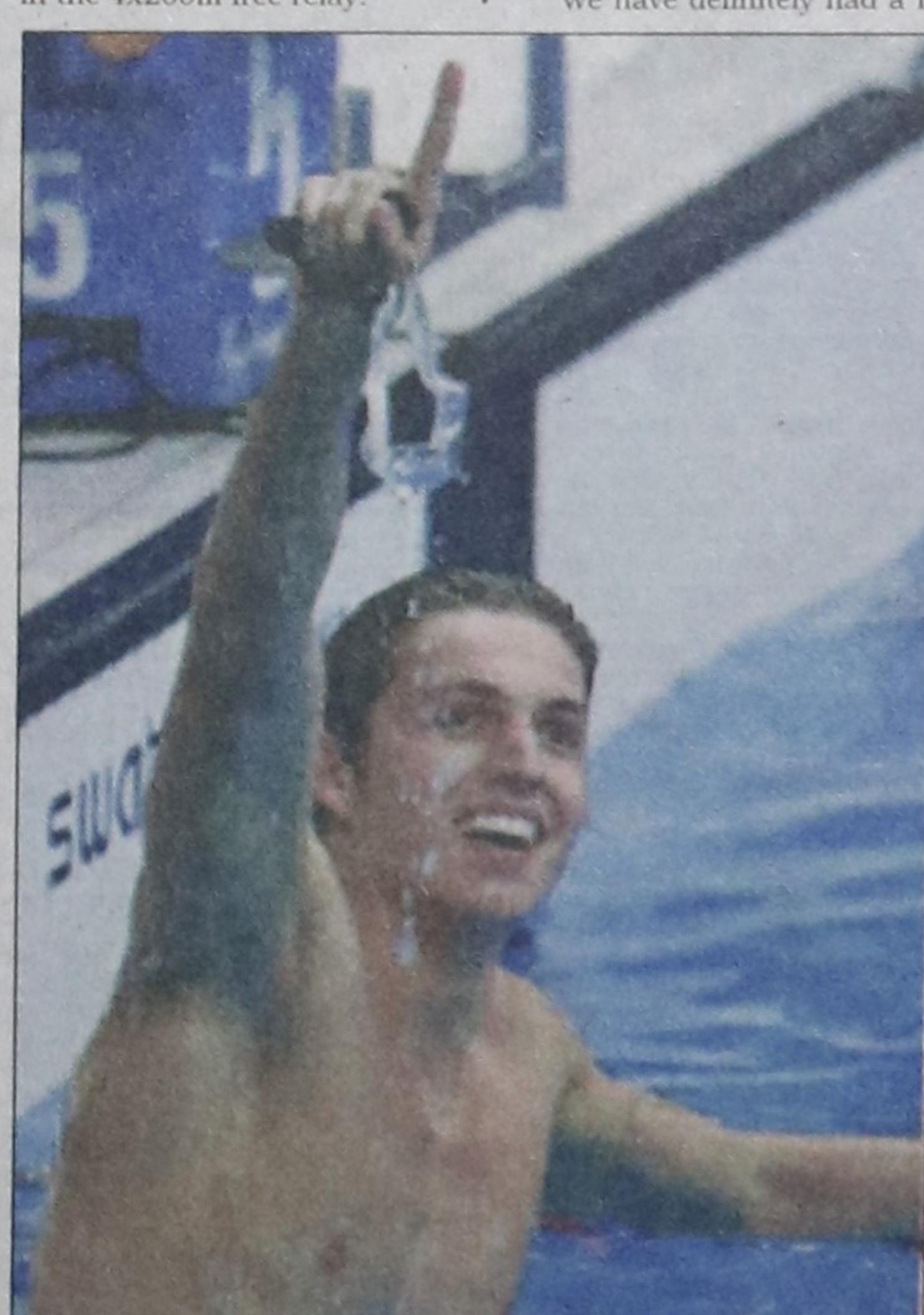
The only other Indians to win medals in individual events at Olympics are wrestler Kesava Jadhav in 1952 Helsinki Olympics and tennis player Leander Paes at Atlanta in 1996. Both of them won the bronze.

"She lifts 240 kilograms and hopes of a billion" the Indian Express newspaper said referring to the one billion-strong Indian population.

"Her success is a tribute to Indian womanhood," Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpeyi said. He said it would be a morale booster to the Indian contingent at Sydney.

Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh from where Malleswari hails said her achievement was a matter of pride for India and her native state.

The state government also announced a reward of one million rupees (22,000 dollars) to Malleswari. Federal Minister of State for Sports Sharawati Hussein said his ministry would give her 600,000 rupees.



PUT MY NAME AT THE TOP! Dutch sensation Pieter van den Hoogenband is delighted after winning the men's 100 metres freestyle yesterday. – AFP photo