

Christie alert

SYDNEY, Sept 23: Security in Stadium Australia is to be tightened after disgraced former Olympic champion Linford Christie slipped into a restricted area without an official pass, a stadium official said Saturday, reports AFP.

The 1992 Olympic 100m champion, banned from competition for two years for taking steroids, is in Sydney without official accreditation but was seen in the stadium seating area reserved for athletes and coaches.

"He was seen in the stadium in the athletes seating," stadium press manager Jayne Pearce told AFP. "There have been a few instances of the public finding their way in."

"It is not a major security breach but it was not being policed as stringently as possible."

"We assume he (Christie) had a ticket for the public seating area but moved into the athletes area."

Pearce said the matter had been brought up at a daily briefing and "we will tighten security and spectator services."

Redgrave

From page 13

n't matter. Second best is not good enough. It's who crosses the line first. A lot of people wanted us to win but we still had to go out there and do the job."

The 38-year-old veteran teamed with Matthew Pinsent, Tim Foster and James Cracknell to take the top honours in a nerve-jangling duel over Italy in the men's coxless four.

And it was sweet revenge over Italy's Valter Molea. Riccardo Deirosi, Lorenzo Carboncini and Carlo Monatti who beat them at the world championships in July.

That Lucerne defeat hurt and Redgrave said it wouldn't happen again at the Olympics. Organisers giving Britain, world champions in 1997, 1998 and 1999, a fourth seeding in Sydney only added to the insult.

In a thrilling race, the British led from the front, opening up a 0.88s lead in the first 500m before the Italian four stormed back into contention.

At 1,000m the British crew's lead was slashed to 0.46s setting up a nail-biting finish.

The Italians pressed hard in the final 500m but Redgrave's calm helped the British team home in 5m56.24s — by less than half a second after they upped their strike rate to a phenomenal 40 strokes a minute.

On crossing the line an exhausted Redgrave, 38, slumped forward in his seat while Pinsent, who partnered him to gold medals in 1992 and 1996, clambered from his position to embrace him before plunging into the water.

In the heady euphoria which followed the British hugged and kissed each other.

While admitting the Italians had made it hard going, Redgrave said he knew it was won after 250m.

"We raced out ahead into a comfortable lead and no-one was going to catch us," he said.

To cap his illustrious career, Redgrave was presented with a commemorative gold pin by International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch, also at his last Games, during the medal ceremony.

His previous golds were in the coxed four in Los Angeles, and the coxless pairs in Seoul, Barcelona and Atlanta.

Victory also handed Pinsent his third consecutive gold — only the fourth Briton to win gold at three successive Games.

"It's just a relief," said Pinsent. "It's been a very tough last couple of days but we had confidence and knew we could win."

"There wasn't any stage in the race that I didn't think we could win. I'm emotional now, especially for Steve. I know what he's gone through."

For Foster it was metal to go with the bronze he won at Atlanta and sheer relief after two years of torment during which he has battled courageously and successfully against a career-threatening back condition and a debilitating hand injury.

And for Cracknell, the vibrant and youthful force, it was a vast improvement from his 17th in the double sculls four years ago.

Australia's James Stewart, Ben Dowell, Geoff Stewart and Bo Hanson won bronze.



Joyous Chelsea players Gianfranco Zola (L), Jody Morris (2nd from L) and Tore Andre Flo (R) congratulate scorer Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (between Morris and Flo) during their Premiership clash against Manchester United at Old Trafford yesterday. —AFP photo

Premiership

Chelsea's brave fightback



LONDON, Sept 23: Reigning champions Manchester United were held by a battling Chelsea side in a thrilling 3-3 draw in the early match at Old Trafford on Saturday in front of a record Premiership crowd of 67,568, reports AFP.

Norwegian international Tore Andre Flo scored twice for Claudio Ranieri's side to earn a point — a diving header just before half time and then with a close range effort in the second period after United had stormed into a 3-1 lead.

Dutchman Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink gave Chelsea an early lead with an unstoppable drive — only for Sir Alex Ferguson's men to hit back through Paul Scholes with an equally devastating strike.

Teddy Sheringham and David Beckham put table-toppers United in control with close-range efforts before Flo brought Chelsea back from the dead.

United remain top of the table with 15 points after seven matches but they could be overtaken by second-placed Leicester — a point behind the leaders — who entertain Everton on Sunday.

Elsewhere Arsenal stay third with a late Dennis Bergkamp goal salvaging a point for the Gunners after Marcus Stewart had given the Premiership newcomers the lead four minutes after the interval.

Fourth-placed Liverpool remain behind Arsenal on goal difference after a 1-1 draw at home to Sunderland.

The battle of the England strikers produced two cracking goals for Michael Owen and Kevin Phillips in the first half at Anfield.

Phillips scored with a fine 25-yarder after just 14 minutes to silence the home crowd.

But Owen wasn't to be outdone and bulleted home a superb header after 33 minutes for the equaliser.

Ten-man Derby fought back bravely to earn a 1-1 draw against Leeds at Pride Park with Georgian international Georgi Kinkladze grabbing the equaliser 15 minutes from time.

The hosts went a goal down when Ian Harte struck a brilliant 30-yard free kick home and then had Horacio Carbonari sent off for the second successive game when he was shown the red card for a foul on Michael Bridges.

Irwin's cross from way out on the right flank was missed by Leboeuf and Cole's run distracted Cudicini leaving Sheringham free to side-foot his fifth goal of the season from close range.

Two minutes later Chelsea were further behind when Cole broke the offside trap and clipped the ball over Cudicini.

The ball came back off the post and Beckham reacted before Marcel Desailly in the Chelsea defence to convert the rebound.

Chelsea were given a glimmer of hope on the stroke of half-time, however, when Flo netted Le Saux's cross with a stooping header which was deflected by Raymond van der Gouw — deputising for injured Frenchman Fabien Barthez.

United came close to restoring their two-goal advantage after 62 minutes.

Cole pushed the ball under the body of Cudicini but as the ball rolled towards the Chelsea net, Le Saux ran in and cleared the danger.

Stand-in captain Le Saux, replacing Dennis Wise who was suffering from a stomach bug, then inspired Chelsea to draw level with 20 minutes to go. A scurrying run down the left took him past Beckham and his cross was laid off by Zola into the path of Flo. The lanky Norwegian had plenty of time to pick his spot and curl the ball just Van der Gouw.

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Chelsea's joy lasted just six minutes with Scholes matching Hasselbaink for long-range finishing prowess.

Dennis Irwin's low cross found its way to the England midfielder, who was lurking on the edge of the Chelsea penalty box, and he drilled a low shot past Carlo Cudicini.

Chelsea started to look shaky in defence and the only surprise was they managed to keep United at bay until the 37th minute.

West Ham secured their first win in the league with a 3-0 win at Coventry despite losing Rio Ferdinand to injury.

Flamboyant Italian Paolo di Canio scored after 38 minutes following a dreadful blunder from Richard Shaw and then supplied the cross two minutes later for Joe Cole to put the visitors 2-0.

Frank Lampard scored the third to round off a solid performance by Harry Redknapp's men.

Julian Joachim put Aston Villa ahead at the Riverside but an own goal by Turkish international defender Ozal Alpay rescued a point for Middlesbrough in a 1-1 draw.

New boys Charlton won 1-0 at St James's Park thanks to Graham Stuart's effort after eight minutes.

Southampton notched their first away win of the season with a 1-0 victory at Bradford, Moroccan international Hassan Kachoul scoring the only goal.

At White Hart Lane, Tottenham, looking for a fourth home win on the trot, were held 0-0 by Manchester City.

Chelsea got off to the best possible start at Old Trafford with a goal after eight minutes.

Flo's acrobatic effort stopped Graeme Le Saux's deep cross from going out of play and the ball fell to Hasselbaink on the edge of the United penalty for him to strike a thunderous

perb header after 33 minutes for the equaliser.

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ABSORBING ANECDOTES

SYDNEY, Sept 23 (AFP). Quotes of the day Saturday from the Olympic Games.

"Every morning in Africa a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed."

"Every morning a lion wakes up and it knows it must run faster than the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death."

"It doesn't matter if you're a lion or a gazelle, when the sun comes up, you better be running."

— 100 metre gold medalist Maurice Greene on what it takes to win it.

"It's a dream come true. It's finally here. I have dreamed about this for 19 years. Now for the other four..."

— 100 metre gold medalist Marion Jones eyeing five golds.

"We raced out ahead into a comfortable lead and no-one was going to catch us."

— Britain's Steve Redgrave after winning his fifth straight Olympic rowing gold medal.

"She made it very clear that if I carry on in a boat that we won't have a marriage. The choice has got to be made. I'll have to give it some thought."

— Britain's five-time Olympic gold medalist rower Steve Redgrave.

"Shinohara's Gold Stolen! Worst mis-refereeing of the century!"

— The Tokyo-Chunichi Sports newspaper on the refereeing decision that left judo giant Shinichi Shinohara with a silver medal against Frenchman David Douillet.

"It's all thanks to Yvette. She's the Dennis Rodman of Water Polo."

— Debbie Watson after Australian teammate Yvette Higgins scored the gold-medal-winning winner with two seconds left.

"The crowd being lowered isn't a problem. We're just going to turn it off."

— Closing ceremony director David Atkins taking no chance with the Olympic flame custodian which nearly threw a spanner in the works during the opener.

"It's outstanding that I did it. Before I came here I knew I could do something, but I couldn't imagine such greatness."

— Dutch swimmer Inge de Bruijn on finishing the Olympics as queen of the waves.

US rule

From page 13

medals, more than any other woman swimmer in history.

As she celebrated with her teammates, the 27-year-old American mused, "I don't think an individual gold medal is as important to me as it was."

The woman who played the biggest part in denying Thompson that solo gold was de Bruijn.

The Dutch swimmer completed her treble with a victory in the 50m freestyle on Saturday, ahead of Sweden's Therese Alshammar and 33-year-old American Torres, who earned her third individual bronze.

De Bruijn set a world record in each of her individual events, twice in the semifinals and in the final of the 100m fly. And she picked up a silver medal in the 4x100m free relay.

"It's outstanding that I did it," de Bruijn said after winning the 50m free in 24.32sec. "Before I came here I knew I could do something, but I couldn't imagine such greatness. It's hard to predict that I would win three, but it's different to do it."

Hackett, mediocre in the 200m and 400m freestyle earlier in the Games, had everything riding on the 1500m, where he took on two-time defending champion and world record-holder Kieren Perkins.

He denied Perkins a third straight 1500m crown, winning in 14min 48.33sec.

"It's the best feeling," Hackett said. "All week people have been questioning me. I feel like Kieren Perkins did in 1996. I was written off, but I put down. I was hounded, but I kept my focus on the job in hand."

Perkins, who hadn't broken 15 minutes since his triumph in Atlanta until the heats on Friday, took silver in 14:53.59.

American Chris Thompson squeezed out Russian Alexei Filipets for the bronze, Thompson touching in 14:56.81 and Filipets in 14:56.88 — the first time in history that four finishers in a 1500m race have swum under 15 minutes.

Hutchinson, however, dismissed any suggestion that Chelsea had renewed their interest in Gronkjaer.

Hutchinson said that talks have opened between the two clubs and at the same time dismissed reports that the club had made an 8.5 million pound (£11.9 million) bid on Thursday for Ajax's Danish international winger Jesper Gronkjaer.

Hutchinson told Britain's Evening Standard on Friday: "Lopez is a player we have looked at for some time. He is a wide player and that is what we have been looking for."

"But no fee has been agreed. It hasn't gone that far. We are talking to Celta and we are waiting to see how the situation develops."

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Bundesliga

Bayern remain atop



COLOGNE, Germany, Sept 23: Bayern Munich crushed arch-rivals Borussia Dortmund 4-0 away in their derby Saturday but it wasn't enough to grab top spot after Bayern Munich beat FC Cologne 2-1, reports AFP.

Hamburg and VfL Wolfsburg had a topsy-turvy game and eventually drew 4-4 while VfL Bochum conceded an injury time goal by Sean Dundee for a 1-1 draw with VfB Stuttgart after hanging on desperately for

most of the game after grabbing an early lead through Peter Peschel on 10 minutes.

Werder Bremen and 10-man Eintracht Frankfurt drew 1-1. Bayern stay top on 15 points followed by Schalke on 14, Dortmund on 12 and 1860 Munich on 11.

Schalke surprised even themselves with their comprehensive win at Dortmund's Westfalen stadium and confirmed they will be a force to be reckoned with this season.

Schalke got off the mark with a Jorg Bohme 39th minute penalty. That was followed by goals from Emilie Mpenza on 45 minutes, an own goal by Dortmund's Jorg Heinrich on 60 minutes and a fourth score by Ebbe Sand on 76 minutes.

Hamburg threw away victory yet again in the final seconds, the third time they have done so in little more than a week. Having conceded late goals against Juventus Turin and Dortmund to drop points they did it yet again Saturday for more heartbreak.

Wolfsburg striker Jonathon Akpobor completed his 100th trick in the 90th minute for a 4-4 draw.

FC Cologne had Bayern under control for 45 minutes but the German champions finally got going after the break. Giovanni Elber put Bayern ahead in the 14th minute but Cologne deserved their equaliser four minutes before the change of ends through Matthias Scherz.

Cologne paid for their inability to convert their chances up front when Roque Santa Cruz marked the winner for Bayern, clearing up a 73rd minute shot by Elber which rebounded to him off the bar.

On Friday evening 1860 Munich beat Freiburg 3-1. Later Saturday Energie Cottbus host Bayer Leverkusen, while on Sunday downtrodden Kaiserslautern travel to Hansa Rostock and Unterhaching enter tain Hertha Berlin.

Freiburg's Alexander Iashvili (R) and Marco Kurz of 1860 Munich are in quest of the ball during their Bundesliga fixture at Munich on September 22.

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Europe's elite join forces

MADRID, Sept 23: Fourteen of Europe's top football clubs have joined forces to present a unified front in their dealings with official bodies, reports AFP.

The new union, christened G14, will handle dealings with the European Union and football's world and European governing bodies, FIFA and UEFA, group spokesman, Barcelona chairman Joan Gaspart, said here Friday.

Motivation to form the association had been sparked by European Commission moves to revamp the European transfer system.