



1900 Olympics in Paris

Following the example of the unknown soldier, the Olympics had its own unknown medal. In rowing, in the coxed pairs, the Dutch team won gold using an 8 or 9-year-old boy as coxswain. He was brought in to replace the named cox who was deemed too heavy. After the race the unexpected Olympic champion disappeared without leaving his name. In any case, he undoubtedly remains the youngest competitor in Olympic history and the youngest champion.



SYDNEY, Sept 26 (AFP): Wednesday's schedule for the Sydney Olympics.

ATHLETICS
Olympic Stadium
Women's 200m Round 1, Men's 200m Round 1, Women's 100m Hurdles Round 2, Women's 200m Round 2, Men's 200m Round 2, Men's Pole Vault Qualifying Round, Men's 400m Hurdles Final, Women's 100m Hurdles Final

HOCKEY
State Hockey Centre
Women's Classifications, Women's Medal Pool, Men's Classifications

TENNIS
Tennis Centre
Men's Singles Bronze Medal Match, Women's Singles Gold Medal Match, Men's Doubles Gold Medal Match, Women's Doubles Bronze Medal Match

BASKETBALL
Basketball Centre

BOXING
Boxing Centre

CANOE/KAYAK
Canoe/Kayak Centre

ROAD CYCLING
Road Cycling Centre

DIVING
Diving Centre

EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE
Equestrian Centre

SAILING
Sailing Centre

TAEKWONDO
Taekwondo Centre

VOLLEYBALL
Volleyball Centre

WATER POLO
Water Polo Centre

WRESTLING GRECO-ROMAN
Wrestling Centre

Lions, Spain enter final

FOOTBALL

SYDNEY, Sept 26: Spanish coach Inaki Saez Ruiz admitted he would rather be facing Chile than Cameroon in Saturday's final of Olympic men's soccer tournament after his side's 3-1 semi-final win over the United States today, reports AFP.

First-half goals by Tamudo and Angulo, allied to man-of-the-match Jose Mari's late strike were enough to earn the

1992 gold medalists a showdown with the unpredictable Africans who scored twice in the last six minutes to beat Chile 2-1.

"We would have known a lot more about Chile than we do about Cameroon," he said.

"But we do know that Cameroon will be a formidable opponent as they have beaten Brazil and now Chile."

But Ruiz is confident his team can emulate their prede-

cessors of eight years ago, who had the advantage of playing on home soil.

"We lost to Chile which was a set-back but then we beat Italy, who are the European champions, and now we are in the final so our morale has gone from negative to positive," he said.

"It was a deserved victory but at 2-1 anything can happen so I was glad we scored the third goal."

SPAIN - 3: USA - 1

SYDNEY: AC Milan striker Jose Mari was the man who inspired Spain, setting up two goals and rounding things off with one for himself.

After a quarter of an hour he outmuscled Danny Califf to race away down the right-hand side and his low centre was converted from six yards by Tamudo.

Ten minutes later he took advantage of a slip on the wet surface by the hapless Califf to play in Angulo, who fired the ball under the advancing Brad See page 15



THE AFRICAN DREAM CONTINUES: Cameroon's Lauren Etame Mayer (R) starts celebrating while teammates rush towards him after the Arsenal player has scored the winning goal against Chile in the men's football semis yesterday at Melbourne. -AFP photo

Can't do sans Ma

BEIJING, Sept 26: Disgraced athletics coach Ma Junren, lurched off the Chinese Olympic team days before the Games after suspicious blood tests by his athletes, is still pulling some strings in Sydney from home, it was reported Tuesday, says AFP.

"Ma Junren is remote controlling Sydney," said the Beijing Morning Post on Tuesday, indicating Ma had not been completely ostracised from China's Olympic set-up despite the scandal.

The paper said Ma was in daily telephone contact with the man who replaced him as China's chief athletics coach, the director of Liaoning province's sports bureau Cui Daling.

It said the pair were working together to fine tune the preparations of 10,000m runner Li Ji, the only one of the seven members of 'Ma's family army' of female distance runners who was not expelled from the team. The report added that another sacked official Zhang Fuxin, who coaches athletes taking part in Thursday's women's 20km walk, was also in regular direct contact with the Sydney team.

Ma has effectively disappeared since the doping scandal broke on September 6, and the flamboyant, chain-smoking super-coach banished from the pages of the national press where he was feted as a hero days before.

Press reports said Ma secretly fled his high-altitude training base in China's southwest Himalayan mountains on September 3, with three busloads of athletes apparently fleeing over frequent drug tests.

Ma's runners were among 27 Chinese athletes dropped from the team because of what Chinese sports officials called 'suspicious blood tests'.

Reports said four of Ma's runners were found to have excessive levels of the banned endurance drug EPO, or erythropoietin.

There has been constant whispering about systematic doping of Ma's athletes since his stable of unknown runners smashed a string of world records in the 1990s, but Ma insisted the success was due to his training methods and caterpillar fungus sports tonics.

Jones stands by her man

ATHLETICS

SYDNEY, Sept 26: Olympic 100m champion Marion Jones found the athletics rest day anything but restful Tuesday, turning out in support of her husband, shot-putter C.J. Hunter, as he pleaded innocent of intentional doping, reports AFP.

The hulking Hunter's emotional press conference, held in downtown Sydney after he was relieved of his Olympic coach's credential, came just hours after pint-sized gymnast Andreea Raducanu's cold pills gave a king-sized headache to the International Olympic Committee, who were obliged to retrieve her prestigious all-around gymnastics gold medal.

24-year-old Jones, who began her 200m campaign on Wednesday as she strives to become the first athlete to win five gold medals at a single Olympic, told the specially convened press conference that she stood by the disgraced Hunter.

"This has been a very diffi-

cult last couple of days for CJ and I, and I am here pretty much to show my complete support for my husband."

"I have total and complete respect for my husband and believe the legal system will...clear his name."

Jones also asked she be left in peace as she goes on her

A four-time offender

SYDNEY, Sept 26: America's world shot put champion C.J. Hunter, the husband of Olympic 100m sprint champion Marion Jones, has tested positive for the banned steroid nandrolone four times since June, IOC medical commission chief Prince Alexandre de Meroche told reporters Tuesday, reports AFP.

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gold record busting spree.

But Jones will have to prepare for her medal blitz without her husband by her side.

Hunter was stripped of his Olympic accreditation after it was revealed that he had failed four drug tests within two months — each test revealing huge amounts of steroids in his system.

IOC medical commission chief Prince Alexandre de Meroche revealed that the Oslo test taken in July had shown a concentration of nandrolone 1,000 times above the permitted limit of two nanograms per millilitre of urine.

He said the three other tests showed a similar reading.

"The tests were over a period in June and July," he said. "There were three out-of-competition tests in addition to the Oslo test and they were nearly all the same level and nearly the same result."

"It was exactly the same, nandrolone. The same dosage," he added.

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THEIR TOUGHEST HOUR: A visibly subdued Marion Jones (R) sitting beside husband C.J. Hunter during a press conference in Sydney yesterday. The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) revealed on Monday that Hunter had tested positive for steroid four times -Internet photo



HERCULES! Hossain Rezazadeh, the Iranian weightlifter is ecstatic after setting a new world record in the men's 105kg category yesterday. -AFP photo

Rezazadeh lifts the world

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WEIGHTLIFTING

SYDNEY, Sept 26: With a prayer and a superhuman lift, Iran's Hossein Rezazadeh was crowned the strongest man in the world on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Relative unknown Rezazadeh equalled the heaviest lift in 80 years of Olympic weightlifting history, a massive 260kg, to take gold in a dramatic superheavyweight showdown.

It was Iran's second gold in consecutive days after the suc-

cess of Hossein Tavakoli in the 105kg division.

Rezazadeh, who said a short prayer to a Muslim prophet renowned for his warrior qualities before every lift, defeated two legends of the sport on his way to gold.

He held off Germany's Ronny Weller, gold medalist in Barcelona in 1992 just two years after he miraculously survived a horrific car crash which killed his girlfriend, and reigning superheavyweight champion Andrei Chemerkhin of Russia who weighed in at a

colossal 174.84kg.

The Iranian, who was only third at last year's World Championships, won with a world record total of 472.5kg (212.5kg and 260kg) with Weller, who held the old mark of 465kg, in silver medal position on 467.5kg. Asht Danielian of Armenia was third on 465kg.

Chemerkhin saved himself for what would have been a gold medal winning last lift but, after running onto stage, he failed at an outrageous attempt on 272.5kg — 12.5kg heavier than he lifted to win in Atlanta four years ago.

The 22-year-old Rezazadeh, who was Asian Junior Champion just three years ago, fell to his knees and kissed the ground after making the winning lift of 260kg.

"Every time I lifted I called for help from God. I invoked the name of a prophet who was known as a great warrior," said Rezazadeh, who weighs 147kg. "I was up against very good opponents and had to lift heavier weights than ever before to win."

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GOING THROUGH THE MIDDLE: Holland's Teun de Nooijer (C) dodging past Pakistan's Imran Youssaf (L) during their men's hockey clash yesterday. -AFP photo

Pakistan power into semis

HOCKEY

SYDNEY, Sept 26: Pakistan set up an all-Asian semifinal against South Korea in Olympic men's hockey after a tumultuous last round of preliminary matches here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Australia will take on reigning champions the Netherlands in the other semifinal as India and Germany crashed out on an extraordinary day at the State Hockey Centre.

Both semifinals will be played on Thursday with the final scheduled under lights on Saturday.

The curse of the defending champions — no country has retained the Olympic title in the past 40 years — appeared to have afflicted the Dutch when

they were beaten 2-0 by a rejuvenated Pakistan.

But in a stunning turnabout, Great Britain upset Germany 2-1 to give the Netherlands a new lease of life and a place in the semi-finals.

Poland were equally generous to South Korea by holding eight-time champions India to a 1-1 draw in the evening's last match played in pouring rain.

The draw left India and South Korea on eight points each and the same goal difference, but the Koreans advanced to the semifinals having defeated India 2-0 in the league match.

"We paid for not taking the chances that came our way," Indian coach Vasudevan Bhaskaran said. "The rain did not help matters either."

Hosts Australia topped

Group B with a 2-1 win over the Koreans in the only match of the day which ended according to the form book.

Germany and the Netherlands also finished on eight points, but the Dutch moved ahead on a superior goal difference.

"This is the craziest Olympic tournament I have seen," said veteran Spanish umpire Santi Deo, who has attended every Games since 1972.

India, clearly affected by the cold and wet weather had to wait till the 53rd minute to take the lead when Dilip Tirkey hit home a rebound off his own penalty corner shot.

But the Poles, who had surprised Atlanta silver-medalists Spain 4-1 last week, drew level less than two minutes before

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