

Star Sport

Dhaka, Friday, September 29, 2000, e-mail: dssports@bdonline.com



1960 Games in Rome

The Games in Rome marked the beginning of the importance of television revenue in the Olympics, and above all, within the finances of the IOC, even if its arrival as an important part of the programme was little noticed by the majority of people. Undoubtedly, the impact the Games had because of the volume of television transmission, thanks to Eurovision, which was on air for 93 hours and 40 minutes. A total of 143 commentators arrived from 38 countries to report on the event, along with 223 accredited technicians.

The television contracts gave the organisation committee a revenue of 1,78,257 US dollars. The Rome Games also witnessed many dramas: a Danish cyclist, Knud Eneberg-Jensen, died following a 100km team time trial due to a combination of doping and exposure. He became only the second person to die during the Olympic Games, after the death of the Portuguese marathon runner Francisco Lázaro in 1912. Meanwhile, the final of the 100m freestyle swimming event ended in total confusion. Australia's John Devitt and the American Lance Larson were elbow to elbow at the end of the race, the judges choosing to give the benefit of the doubt to Devitt. But after consulting the official times, the American was given the advantage by a 100th of a second (55.1 against 55.2), while the electronic timing device timed Devitt at 55.16 and Larson at 55.10. Yet, despite the support of both electronic timing devices, the judges declared the Australian the winner. The Americans spent the next four years trying to look for an explanation for the decision, but their efforts proved to be in vain.

Dutch-Korean finale

HOCKEY

SYDNEY, Sept 28: Reigning champions the Netherlands and South Korea advanced to the final of the Olympic men's hockey with contrasting semifinal wins here on Thursday, reports AFP.

The Koreans, masterminded by their sharp-eyed strategist

Kim Sang-Ryul, set up their first appearance in the gold medal match with a 1-0 win over three-time champions Pakistan.

The Dutch rode their luck for the second time in three days to edge out hosts Australia 5-4 in the tie-breaker after both teams were locked goalless in 70 minutes of regulation play

and 15 minutes of extra-time. Saturday's final will feature two teams that benefitted from others' generosity to make the semifinals.

The Dutch had moved up only after Great Britain knocked Germany out of contention with a 2-1 win in the last league match on Tuesday.

The Koreans nudged ahead after Poland scored a last-gasp equaliser to hold India to a 1-1 draw.

Both India and the Koreans finished with equal points and the same goal difference, but the Koreans had advanced because of a 2-0 win over the Indians in the league.

The Dutch now get a chance to defend the title won at Atlanta four years ago and break the 40-year-old jinx that has denied any team back-to-back gold medals.

Their goalkeeper Ronald Jansen saved Brent Livermore's final penalty stroke with his stick to send the hosts into tears before a packed house at the 15,000-seater State Hockey Centre.

Bram Lomans, Wouter van Pelt, Piet-Hein Geurts, Stephan Veen and Marten Ekelboom converted their penalty strokes for the Dutch.

For Australia, Michael Brennan, Troy Elder, Adam Commen and James Elmer scored before the 24-year-old Livermore crumbled under the growing pressure.

Livermore, who had earlier been handed a five-minute suspension for rough play, pushed to the right of Jansen, whose outstretched stick sent the ball out.

The Aussies failed to take a shot at their first Olympic gold medal despite finishing among the top four in their last six appearances. This was their first defeat in the tournament.

Australian coach Terry Walsh refused to blame Livermore, but lamented the missed chances.

"It was a tragic way to go out, but we did not convert the chances that came our way during the match."

Dutch coach Maurits Hendriks was relieved. "We should have won in regulation time itself, because we dominated the second half," he said.

Both sides made fluent counter-attacks in the game played at a furious pace, but fumbled repeatedly before the goal.

Kim, the South Korean manager, had sat up all night watching videos of Pakistan's earlier games, particularly the penalty corner expertise of the deadly Sohail Abbas.

The effort paid off as the Ko-

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SONG'S WINNING SONG: South Korean forward Seung-Tae Song (R) being chased by ecstatic teammates Kon-Wook Kang (top) and Jong-Hyun Hwang after he had scored against Pakistan in their men's hockey semifinal yesterday. —AFP photo

dominant force in the women's game, reports AFP.

Mellgren — a second-half substitute — appeared to control the ball with her arm in the 12th minute of the extra period but was allowed fire a shot low into the corner that the US goalkeeper Siri Mullinx should

have saved.

The result confirmed the

Scandinavians' position as the

neophytes of the US, who had

previously been unbeaten in international competition since

losing to Norway in the semi-

final of the 1995 World Cup.

"We can claim to be the best

side in the world now," said

Norwegian coach Per-Mathias Hagnes.

"We have now beaten the US

four times this year and China

three times."

Tiffeny Milbrett's last minute

header from Mia Hamm's cross had forced the extra period after Norway had taken a scarcely deserved lead in the 77th minute.

Mullinx was again at fault,

colliding with defender Joy

Fawcett when dealing with a regulation cross to allow Ragnhild Gulbranson's header to fly

into an empty net.

But Norway's real hero was

goalkeeper Bente Nordby, who

made a string of second-half

saves to keep the scores level as the US threatened to run riot.

"You need a matchwinner and Bente is a match-winner," said Hagnes.

"We were the better team in extra-time, we were the ones trying to create chances. We knew the US would tire and I told the players that it was our day."

US coach April Heinrichs

paid tribute to the battling

qualities of the Norwegians

after seeing her team dominate

the game but somehow end up

with just silver medals.

"We have a deep respect for

the Norwegians winning mentality — they are champions," she said.

"They kept their game plan

simple and never gave up."

But she refused to criticise

the golden goal format.

"I'm a big fan of it. There is

no single better way to end a game of soccer," she said.

"We walked off the field with

tears in our eyes but I am incred-

ibly proud of my team. We

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The US had taken the lead

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TAKING A NAP IN THE AIR! Na Li and Xue Sang of China executing a routine in tandem during the final of the 10-metre platform yesterday. The pair won the gold.

— AFP photo



TWO IN THE BAG, THREE MORE TO GET: The matchless Marion Jones celebrates after taking the women's 200 metres gold yesterday. Jones will compete in three more events and is the favourite in all of them.

— AFP photo

Three more to win

ATHLETICS

SYDNEY, Sept 28: Marion Jones clinched her second Olympic gold with a blistering victory in the 200 metres here on Thursday, reports AFP.

The 24-year-old simply blew away the opposition, racing home in a shattering 21.84.

Pauline Davis-Thompson of the Bahamas took the silver in 22.27, the fastest 200m race of her life, and Sri Lanka's Sunethika Jayasinghe gave her country only their second ever Olympic medal and the first for a woman when she snatched the bronze in 22.28, a new Sri Lankan record.

"All I feel is relief. I've sorted out the two sprints now I can concentrate on my challenge tomorrow," said Jones, who will attempt to win the women's long jump as she tries to become the first woman to win five track and field golds in a single Olympics.

"I didn't have a worry during the race," she added.

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"We were the better team in extra-time, we were the ones trying to create chances. We knew the US would tire and I told the players that it was our day."

US coach April Heinrichs paid tribute to the battling qualities of the Norwegians after seeing her team dominate the game but somehow end up with just silver medals.

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"They kept their game plan simple and never gave up."

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THE LAST LAUGH WASN'T THEIRS: American fans in fine spirit prior to the start of the ladies' football final against Norway yesterday. The US eventually lost by a golden goal.

— AFP photo



SYDNEY, Sept 28 (AFP): Final Updated Olympics medals table on Thursday:

Country	G	S	B	T
USA	32	18	26	76
China	28	15	15	56
Russia	19	18	21	58
Australia	15	22	14	51
France	12	13	8	33
Italy	11	6	11	28
Romania	10	4	4	18
Germany	9	12	20	41
Netherlands	8	7	3	18
Great Britain	6	9	5	20
South Korea	6	8	9	23
Cuba	5	8	2	15
Japan	5	7	4	16
Bulgaria	5	3	2	10
Greece	4	5	1	10
Poland	4	4	1	9
Sweden	4	3	1	8
Ukraine	3	7	7	17
Hungary	3	2	1	6
Belarus	3	1	10	14
Spain	3	1	4	8
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Canada	2	2	5	9
Czech Rep	2	2	3	7
Finland	2	1	1	4
Austria	2	1	0	3
Lithuania	2	0	2	4
Iran	2	0	1	3
Slovenia	2	0	0	2
Switzerland	1	6	2	9
Indonesia	1	3	2	6
Slovakia	1	3	1	5
Norway	1	2	1	4
Mexico</td				