

Star Sport

Dhaka, Saturday, September 30, 2000, e-mail: dssports@bdonline.com



1964 Games in Tokyo

The Dutch judo competitor Anton Geesink was the man who brought the Japanese nation to its knees. When the IOC decided to include judo as a sport in the Olympic programme for Tokyo, they did so mainly to meet the fervent wishes of their hosts, possessive and proud of their national sport. To no great surprise, they dominated the events. Four categories were included: lightweight, middleweight, heavyweight, and the supreme Open category. Japan easily won the first three titles. But in the final event, the public was in awe of a giant Dutchman (1.98m and 118kg), already feared since becoming world champion in the category in 1961.

As the tournament progressed those fears became more and more justified. In the semi-final Geesink threw the Australian Theodore Bonovoski to the ground in 12 seconds. The Japanese competitor, Akio Kaminaga - with the hope of the whole nation resting on his shoulders - won a place in the final after an incredible record-setting bout when he threw his competitor to the ground after only 4 seconds - a record that would stand for 28 years.

Everything was set for a "dream final", the perfect duel. The specialist of the "falling imbalance" made use once more of moves that were unknown to the Japanese. After 9 minutes and 22 seconds, Geesink's physique proved a deciding factor, helping him through and hold his adversary to the ground. Japan held its breath, slowly suffering with Kaminaga. The third seconds of regulation time eventually expired, signifying the end of the contest. Geesink won through Kesa Gatame - a cross-chest hold-down. The shocked Japanese public stood up as a mark of respect to the victor, and gave him a brief ovation before quickly taking their seats again to hide their obvious disappointment.

In that brief moment, centuries worth of tradition collapsed as Geesink rose to accept his gold medal.

Many Japanese who were watching the bout in the crowded arena broke down in tears. This contest had huge repercussions for the sport, until then dominated by the judokan from the East. But as with all suffering, life continued and Japan once again found its feet, and its dominance, in the event in the years to come.

Historic Hockeyroos

HOCKEY

SYDNEY, Sept 29: Australia became the first team in Olympic history to retain the women's hockey title with a brilliant 3-1 victory over Argentina in the final here on Friday, reports AFP.

Alison Annan, Juliet Haslam and Jenny Morris scored for the Hockeyroos in a one-sided final before 15,000 screaming home fans at the State Hockey Centre.

Argentina, who trailed 2-0 at

half-time, earned a consolation goal through Vanina Oneto in the second-half.

The win was a fitting farewell for the Hockeyroos' lord and master Ric Charlesworth, a former Australian men's captain, who ended his seven-year tenure as coach after the match.

It also helped senior pro Rechelle Hawkes join swim legend Dawn Fraser and Equestrian star Andrew Hoy as the only Australians to win gold medals in the same event at three

years.

Hawkes, who read the players' oaths at the Opening Ceremony two weeks ago, was part of the team that won their first gold at Seoul in 1988 and repeated the feat at Atlanta in 1996.

The gold medal made amends for the disappointment of the hosts, who had seen the men knocked out by the Netherlands in a penalty shoot-out during Thursday's semifinal.

The victory also helped Charlesworth's girls overcome the humiliation of failing to qualify for the Champions' Trophy final in May, their first defeat in a major since 1993.

Australia, the only unbeaten team in the 10-nation competition, flattened their rivals with 25 goals while conceding just five in eight matches.

There was, however, no disgrace for Pan-American champions Argentina, who won the silver against all odds in their first appearance at the Olympics in 12 years.

Argentina's first ever medal in the sport came after they went into the super-six round as the only team without a

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HOSTS' HOCKEY HEROINES: Jenny Morris (30) and Alison Peck (7) of Australia celebrate a goal against Argentina in their women's hockey gold medal game yesterday. Australia won 3-1. -AFP photo

Ngeny doubles Kenyan delight

ATHLETICS

steeplechase, Ngeny made it two in a row.

SYDNEY, Sept 29: Noah Ngeny pulled of a sensational double for Kenya when he won the Olympic 1500-metre title here on Friday, edging out world record holder Hicham El Guerrouj of Morocco, reports AFP.

Ngeny clocked 3mins 32.07secs, a new Olympic record, and El Guerrouj 3:32.32. Bernard Lagat of Kenya took the bronze in 3:32.44.

Less than an hour after Reuben Seronye gave Kenya its first medal of the Games when he won the 3000 metre

"My game plan worked perfectly. I stuck close to El Guerrouj all the time, watching him and waiting for his kick. I was stronger," he added.

It was a bitter blow for the 26-year-old El Guerrouj who had wanted to wipe out the nightmare of Atlanta four years ago.

In the end it was El Guerrouj who, five metres out, realised once again the gold had slipped from his grasp and he eased up, accepting the silver.

"I came here looking for gold and I knew I could do it. I vowed last year when I came second at the world championships in Seville I would go one better here," said the young Kenyan.

The Moroccan was so upset he came into the holding area under the stadium and sat sobbing until he was led away by a team official for the regulation dope test.

Afterwards he confessed that the pressure on him even before the race all proved too much.

"I was very stressed. There was a lot of pressure on me from Morocco and the king. I was crying when I got to the stadium. It was a day I wasn't at the top of my form. I was tired," said El Guerrouj.

"But the truth is Hicham remains Hicham. Hicham the ruler. I hand the throne over to Noah. I am now going to concentrate on the 5000 meters," he added.

El Guerrouj's teammate Youssef Baba sacrificed himself, going straight to the front from the gun.

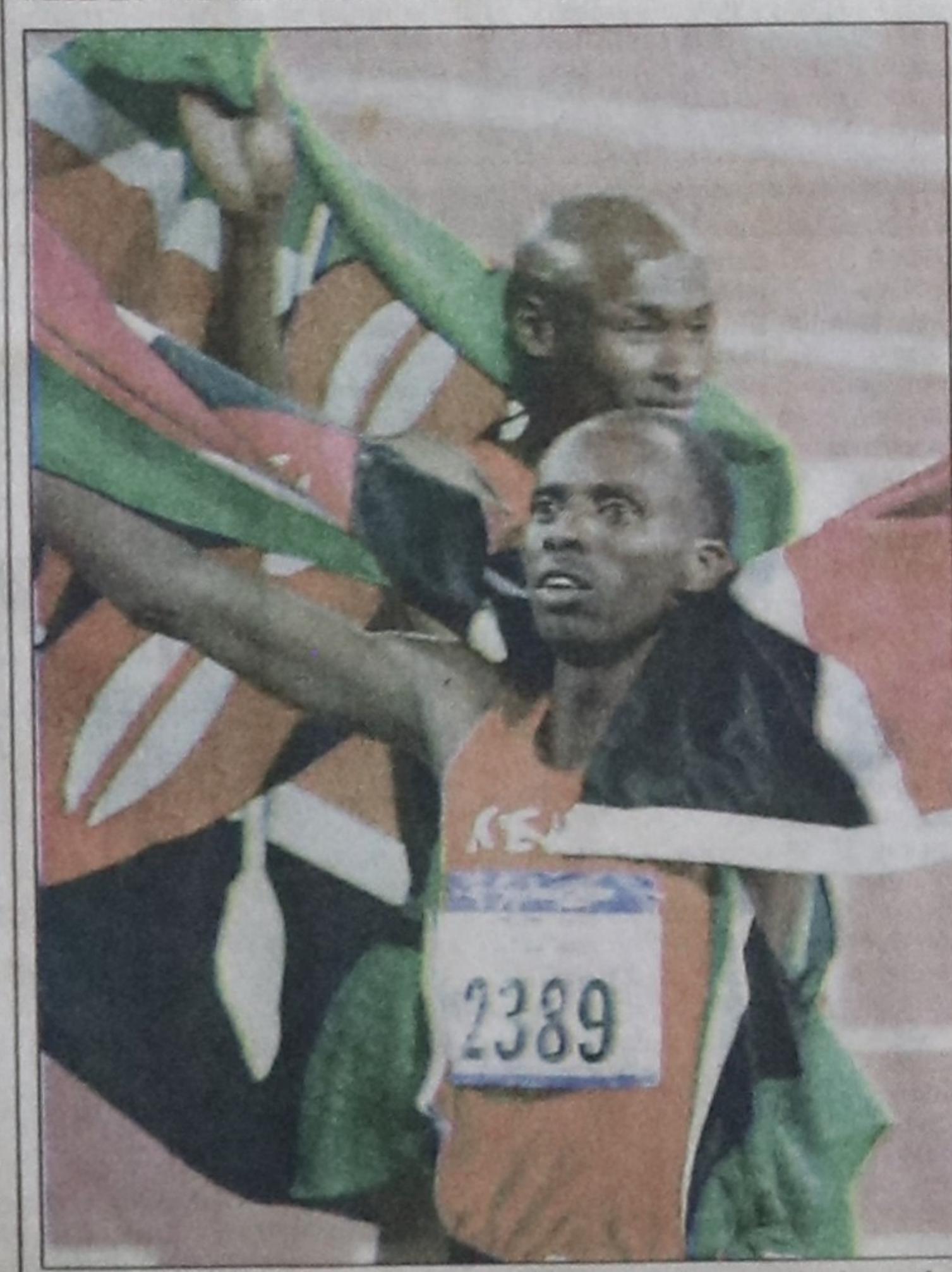
With El Guerrouj shadowing him, he set a cracking pace over the first 800 meters before falling away, exhausted by his effort.

But the tactic failed to rattle the Kenyans who simply bided their time before pouncing on the dash for the line.

Rule Britannia

SYDNEY, Sept 29: Shirley Robertson won gold in the women's Europe sailing class here Friday to ensure Britain's most successful Games since 1924, reports AFP.

It was Britain's seventh gold medal, eclipsing the six gained in Melbourne in 1956 and equalling the tally from Paris some 76 years ago.



A KENYAN MOMENT: Noah Ngeny of Kenya displays the Kenyan flag during the lap of honour after winning the gold in the men's 1500m final. Behind him is compatriot and bronze medal winner Bernard Lagat. -AFP photo



Sydney 2000

Olympic Special



SYDNEY, Sept 29 (AFP): Final updated Olympic medal table on Friday:

Country	G	S	B	T
USA	33	19	27	79
China	26	15	56	
Russia	20	19	22	61
Australia	16	22	15	53
France	12	13	8	33
Italy	11	7	11	29
Germany	10	13	21	44
Romania	10	4	4	18
Great Britain	8	9	5	22
Netherlands	8	8	4	20
South Korea	7	8	9	24
Cuba	6	8	2	16
Poland	6	4	1	11
Japan	5	8	5	18
Bulgaria	5	3	2	10
Greece	4	5	1	10
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	6	10
Czech Rep	2	2	3	7
Kenya	2	2	2	6
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	5
Norway	1	3	1	5
Slovakia	1	3	1	5
Mexico	1	2	2	5
Latvia	1	1	1	3
Kazakhstan	1	1	0	2
New Zealand	1	0	3	4
Estonia	1	0	2	3
Ethiopia	1	0	2	3
Croatia	1	0	1	2
Azerbaijan	1	0	0	1
Colombia	1	0	0	1
Mozambique	1	0	0	1
Brazil	0	5	3	8
Denmark	0	3	1	4
Belgium	0	2	3	5
Argentina	0	2	2	4
Jamaica	0	2	2	4
Nigeria	0	2	0	2
Chinese Taipei	0	1	4	5
South Africa	0	1	3	4
Morocco	0	1	2	3
North Korea	0	1	2	3
Trinidad	0	1	1	2
Bahamas	0	1	0	1
Ireland	0	1	0	1
Moldova	0	1	0	1
Saudi Arabia	0	1	0	1
Uruguay	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Yugoslavia	0	1	0	1
Georgia	0	0	4	4
Algeria	0	0	2	2
Armenia	0	0	2	2
Costa Rica	0	0	2	2
Barbados	0	0	1	1
Iceland	0	0	1	1
India	0	0	1	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1	1
Kuwait	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Qatar	0	0	1	1
Sri Lanka	0	0	1	1
Thailand	0	0	1	1

She knew the truth?

SYDNEY, Sept 29: Marion Jones, the American sprint queen who was bidding to win five gold medals at the Sydney Olympics here this week, on Friday night hinted for the first time that she came to Australia in the knowledge that her husband, C.J. Hunter, had failed a drugs test in July, reports AFP.

Jones, the winner of the 100 and 200 metres earlier in the week, had just had her audacious "Drive for Five" halted by Germany's Heike Drechsler, who won the long jump title, while the American had to settle for bronze.

Jones is due to race in both the 4x100 and 4x400 metres relay finals for the United States on Saturday.

But after her long jump performance, Jones was asked whether the controversy surrounding her husband had affected her Olympic bid.

Hunter, the shot put world champion, tested positive in July for the banned steroid nandrolone. Positive in four drug tests in one, Hunter was 1000 times over the limit.

"It's hard to keep a secret," Jones said when asked whether she had come to Sydney knowing that storm clouds were gathering around her husband.

"Some of you guys were trying to find out a secret."

Jones said that she had not spoken with her husband in the hour since her competition ended.

As a drug suspect athlete, Hunter is denied official credentials into athlete areas of Olympic venues, although he is allowed to buy tickets in the spectator seats, which is apparently from where he watched Friday night's final.

Jones said that Hunter had indicated to her to take pride in her bronze medal. "He gave me the thumbs up," Jones said.



VINTAGE WINE TASTES BEST: German veteran Heike Drechsler flying through the air during the finals of the women's long jump competition. Drechsler won the gold. -AFP photo

Drechsler distinctly dissimilar

ATHLETICS

SYDNEY, Sept 29 (AFP): In 1983, when still an 18-year-old student at an East German sports academy, Heike Dauta was the youngest winner at the inaugural World Championships in Helsinki.

On Friday here in Sydney, the often controversial Heike Drechsler won her second Olympic gold medal and, at nearly 36 years old, became the oldest ever women's Olympic long jump champion.

Drechsler's victory might be overshadowed by the fact that the German ended American Marion Jones' slim hopes of winning five golds at the Sydney Games.

But it should be viewed as a golden autumn to her career.