



## 1988 Games in Seoul

It was exactly 03:53am on this particular Monday, September 26 in Seoul (Sunday 17:53 GMT), when a report from Agence France Presse (AFP) in Seoul had a bomb-like effect in editors' offices around the world and in the main press centre in Seoul where a few journalists were still filing copy for their respective agencies and newspapers.

According to the newsflash, which gave AFP a world exclusive on the story, the Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, winner of the 100m on September 24 in a record time of 9.79 sec, had tested positive following a routine dope test. He was immediately disqualified from further competition.

In the same story, it was discovered, with good evidence, that in its report to the executive committee of the IOC, the only body able to sanction misdeeds, the medical committee's official report stated that the sprinter's urine contained residue belonging to an anabolic steroid from the "stanozolol" family, one of the many to feature on the list of banned substances.

The news, which spread like wildfire around the globe, had a profound effect on the Games in Seoul and once more rocked the IOC to its foundations, doping being one of its most pressing preoccupations.

Early in the morning in Seoul (9am, 11pm GMT), Carole Anne Letheren, head of the Canadian Olympic delegation, received a letter from the IOC stating that Johnson's first (A) urine test was positive.

An hour later, a Canadian delegation including the coach of the disgraced sprinter, Charlie Francis, attended the anti-doping centre near the University of Kangi for the result of Johnson's second urine sample. The result irrevocably showed that Johnson's urine contained a substantial amount of stanozolol, a synthetic male hormone made in the United States.

The Canadian delegation, shattered by what would quickly become the biggest scandal of the Games, offered a meagre defence of their disgraced athlete, saying that he could have been doped against his wishes. But this was in vain. The formal report showed the true extent of the damage: the traces of stanozolol found in Johnson's body indicated that systematic use of the drug was evident over a long period of time.

Taking the scandal by the scruff of the neck, the executive commission of the IOC did not wait long to unanimously announce his disqualification, resulting in Johnson returning his medal. The International Amateur Athletics Federation added its own punishment, banning Johnson from all competition for two years and erasing his record from the record books.

Disgraced and humiliated, Johnson left the Olympic Games. His glory from the time spent on the highest point of the podium, ascended shortly after crossing the finish line with his finger pointing skywards to indicate victory ahead of Carl Lewis, Linford Christie and Calvin Smith, turned out to be short-lived.

On Tuesday, Johnson departed for the airport at Kimpoo surrounded by about twenty bodyguards.

He wore a black shirt with an "Africa" inscription written in red on the back. Photographers were kept at a distance. Johnson's face was hidden behind an attaché case held at arms-length. He made no statement and left the South Korean capital by the back door like an underworld criminal.



**SYDNEY, Sept 30 (AFP):** Schedule for Day 16, the final day, of the Sydney Olympics on Sunday.

**ATHLETICS**  
Men's marathon finish

**BASKETBALL**  
Sydney SuperDome  
Men's Bronze Medal Game, Men's Gold Medal Game

**HANDBALL**  
The Dome  
Women's Classifications, Women's Bronze Medal Game, Women's Gold Medal Game

**VOLLEYBALL**  
Sydney Entertainment Centre  
Men's Bronze Medal Match, Men's Gold Medal Match

**BOXING**  
CANOE/KAYAK  
RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS  
EQUESTRIAN  
MODERN PENTATHLON  
WATER POLO  
FREESTYLE WRESTLING  
CLOSING CEREMONY  
Olympic Stadium

## Waiting a riveting closing

**GAMES, Sept 30** (Internet report): The Sydney Olympics are to go out with a bang - a low-flying fighter-bomber is to create a massive plume of flame and one million people will be treated to one of the world's

surprise stars whose identities haven't yet been revealed. The fighter-bomber's dramatic flight will be the signal for an hour-long party at the stadium to begin before 24 "lightning shells" explode like giant

flashbulbs all the way down the Parramatta River to downtown Sydney where another F-111 will light up the sky over the Harbour Bridge.

It is being dubbed "the river of lightning". Jones, in a dig at London's "river of fire" that proved a damp squib on millennium night in Britain, said: "It will be very different from the river of fire on the Thames in that it will work."

The night sky will then be ablaze with fireworks that have a truly international flavour - pyrotechnical experts from Spain, Japan, the United States and South Africa are all contributing to the explosion of light.

Jones has promised the display will be bigger and better than Sydney's millennium celebrations which ranked as one of the most breathtaking on the night that saw in the new century.

"It will dwarf anything we have done before," he said of the fireworks that will be set off from four giant barges, 10 smaller boats and the rooftops of city skyscrapers.

Sydney loves to party and organisers expect up to one million people will pack the best vantage points around the harbour to see the 23-minute show.

### Watch BTV!

**Sports Reporter**

Bangladesh Television will telecast the Closing Ceremony of the Olympic Games live today. The ceremony will begin in Sydney at 2:45 (BST) in the afternoon.

Besides, BTV will provide its live coverage on the final day of the Games from 7:15 in the morning which will continue until 1:00pm. There will also be a one-hour highlights session starting from 1 to 2pm.

Live telecast resumes at 2pm and will continue till the closing ceremony winds up.

Television sources however said that viewers would not be able to watch live programme for 15 minutes (2:30 to 2:45pm) due to the temporary suspension of satellite connection.



Hearts Racing for the Kylie Experience

## Golden goodbye

### ATHLETICS

**SYDNEY, Sept 30:** Michael Johnson's sparkling Olympic career ended with a fitting gold medal when he anchored the American 4x400m team to victory here on Saturday night, reports AFP.

The 33-year-old swept across the line to the roar of over 100,000 people packed into Stadium Australia to witness the last run by one of the greatest athletes ever to have competed in the Games.

Johnson paid them back by taking a leisurely jog around the edge of the track, exchanging high-fives with an adoring audience before disappearing into the bowels of the stadium.

"Now I am going to take time out and think about my future and if I should call it a day," said Johnson. "This was my last major meet. I will not be running at the World Championships. There is nothing to be gained."

"Tonight I was just happy to go out with gold. I sure as hell did not want to finish with silver or bronze," he added.

It was a perfect end to an amazing career for the Texan who was able to walk away with nothing to prove.

In Michael Johnson's race for history, his fiercest com-

petitors were only himself and time.

Johnson donned his golden spikes again on Monday and did what no man had done before, successfully defending his Olympic 400m crown.

In the chilly night air of Stadium Australia, the magical 43-second barrier remained impenetrable.

But Olympic gold was Johnson's first priority, and he drew

### Gold-costing blunders

**SYDNEY, Sept 30:** American sprint queen Marion Jones saw another gold medal slip away when the Bahamas swept to victory in the 4x100m relay final here on Saturday night, reports AFP.

Two blunders during the American handovers, including one by the 24-year-old Jones, saw the strongly fancied Americans trailing home in third spot for the bronze. Jamaica won the silver.

The second handover between Torri Edwards and Naureen Perry spelled disaster for Jones, who had been aiming for five golds but can now hope for three at best. Perry set off

on all of his experience and will to achieve it. There was no one on the track who could drive him.

"I can honestly say that since Carl Lewis left this sport, there's not an athlete that I get excited about running against," Johnson has said in the past. "I get excited about achieving my own goals."

"Once I get to a final, there's seven other people there. I don't care who they are. I don't know who they are. They have no faces or names to me. They're just seven people standing in my way."

Two world records — one set in the 200m final in Atlanta and the other in the 1999 world championship final — have earned Johnson the right to wear his trademark golden shoes.

Johnson has won six individual world titles (twice completing the 200/400 double), three 4x400m relay world titles, three individual Olympic titles including the incredible double in 1996 — and one relay medal.

Disappointments have been few and far between save an embarrassing exit in the 200m 1992 Olympic semi-finals and pulling up injured in his bitter duel with 100m Olympic champion Donovan Bailey, who accused him of being a chicken.



**BAHAMA BLITZ:** Bahama's Debbie Ferguson (C) is ecstatic after crossing the finish line ahead of Christine Arron of France (R) and Marion Jones of the US to give her team the Olympic gold in the women's 4x100m relay final yesterday. —AFP photo



**THE WINNER TAKES IT ALL:** A combo of AFP photos showing Cameroon's Lauren Etienne Mayer (L) celebrating after the Pierre Wome's winning kick in the penalty shoot-out and an inconsolable Spanish custodian Aranzubia (R) hiding his face after the defeat during the men's football final yesterday.

## Lions have last laugh

### FOOTBALL

**SYDNEY, Sept 30:** Cameroon staged one of the most astonishing fightbacks in a major soccer final on Saturday beating a nine-man Spanish side 5-3 on penalties to win the Olympic title, reports Reuters.

It was the West African country's first Olympic gold medal.

Trailing 2-0 at halftime, they turned the match around with two goals in five minutes, an own goal by Amaya after 53 minutes and a close-range goal from Real Madrid's Samuel Eto's after 58 minutes.

They were only denied a fairytale winner in the last minute of extra time when Eto's, had the "winning" goal disallowed for being inches offside.

Instead the outcome of an outstanding 16-team tournament, which began two days before the official Olympic opening ceremony, was decided by penalties.

Spain must have fancied their chances with penalties against 16-year-old goalkeeper Carlos Idriss Kameni, but he kept his nerve. Spanish defender Amaya cracked his spot-kick against Kameni's bar leaving Cameroon 3-2 ahead with two penalties left.

Lauren scored his to make it 4-2. Albelda replied for Spain making it 4-3 before Patrick Wome lashed home Cameroon's fifth penalty to make it 5-3 and secure Cameroon's first Olympic medal since they won a silver and bronze in boxing in 1984.

The Cameroon players, some of whom had also lifted the African Nations Cup earlier this year, celebrated as the Spaniards collapsed on the pitch in

tears. An afternoon which started so well for them had ended in a defeat which seemed unlikely at halftime.

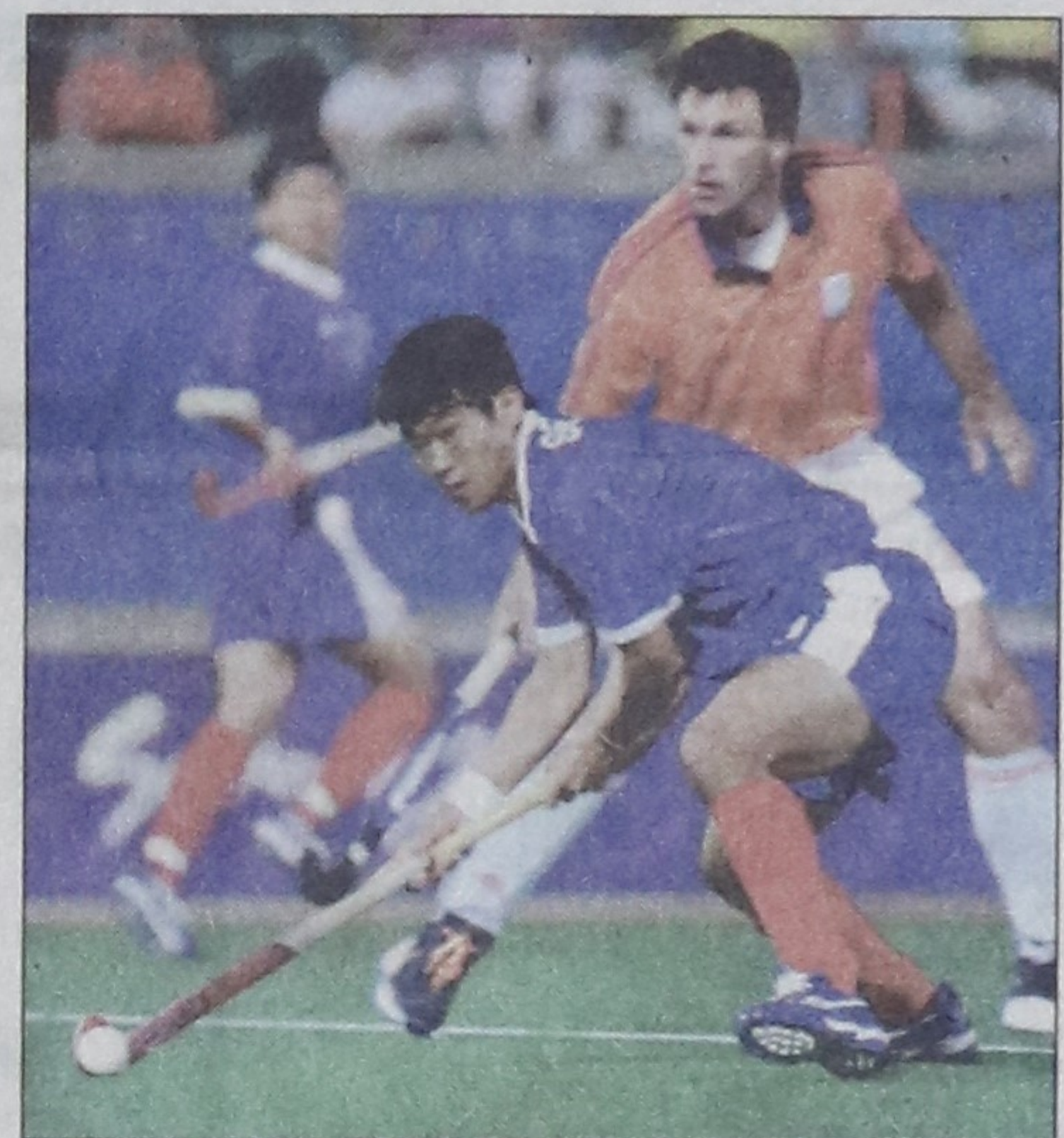
It took Spain only 75 seconds to open the scoring when Barcelona midfielder Xavi curled a freekick low into the net netting from 18 metres out.

Gabri, who had come on for injured Spanish skipper Toni Velamazan after 27 minutes,

put Spain 2-0 up on the stroke of half-time with his third goal of the tournament. He made no mistake after being sent clear with a long ball out of defence, and at that stage, Spain looked set for their second soccer gold medal in eight years after taking the title at Barcelona in 1992.

But Cameroon are not

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**CLASSIC CONTEST:** South Korea's Jong-Ho Seo (front) is under pressure from a Dutch player during their hockey gold medal match yesterday. South Korea lost the game 4-5 on penalties. —AFP photo

## Oranje occasion

### HOCKEY

**SYDNEY, Sept 30:** The Netherlands retained the Olympic men's hockey title with a 5-7 win over South Korea in the tie-breaker here on Saturday, ending a 40-year-old jinx on defending champions, reports AFP.

The tie-breaker came at the end of a rousing final in which the Koreans scored twice in the last four minutes of regulation time to draw level 3-3 and force the game into extra-time.

Song Seung-Tae, South Korea's most prolific scorer in the tournament with five goals, pushed the third stroke wide to help the Dutch win a shoot-out for the second match in a row.

They had advanced to the final by defeating hosts Australia in similar fashion in Thursday's semifinal.

Australia retained the bronze medal with a 6-3 win over three-time champions Pakistan earlier in the day.

The Dutch became the first team to win back-to-back Olympic titles after India's streak of six golds ended at the 1960 Games in Rome.

Bram Lomans, Piet-Hein Geeris, Wouter van Pelt and Marten Ekelboom scored in the tie-breaker for the Dutch, before captain Stephan Veen followed his hat-trick in the match with the winning stroke.

Jeon Jong-Ha, Yeo Woon-Kon, Kim Kyung-Seok and Kang Keon-Wook converted their shots for the Koreans.

The Dutch, fired by Veen's three goals, appeared to have the match wrapped up when they led 3-1 with just six minutes remaining.

Kim Kyung-Seok, however, hit in a penalty corner in the 66th before Kang Keon-Wook scored the next minute to make it 3-3.

The Koreans took an early lead in the ninth minute when

Song Seung-Tae broke free from a goalmouth melee and pushed the ball home.

The Dutch drew level with their second penalty corner in the 20th as Jeon Jong-Ha, standing on the goal line, took a scoop from Bram Lomans on the chest.

German umpire Christian

Siebrecht awarded the Netherlands a penalty stroke which Veen converted easily to make it 1-1.

The Dutch, who ended the first half with two penalty corners that went wide, went ahead soon after the break when Veen dived to deflect in a

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**AS FAST AS THEY GET:** Maurice Greene finishes the 4x100 metres relay for the gold medal winning US quartet yesterday. —AFP photo



**SYDNEY, Sept 30 (AFP):** Final updated Olympic medal table for Saturday

Country	G	S	B	T
USA	38	22	30	90
Russia	28	24	25	77
China	28	16	15	59
Australia	16	24	16	56
Germany	13	17	24	54
France	13	13	10	36
Italy	12	8	11	31
Cuba	11	10	5	26
Netherlands	11	8	4	23
Romania	11	5	8	24
Great Britain	9	10	6	25
South Korea	8	9	11	28
Poland	6	4	2	12
Japan	5	8	6	18
Bulgaria	5	5	2	12
Greece	4	6	3	13
Sweden	4	5	3	12
Hungary	4	4	3	11
Ukraine	3	9	6	20
Spain	3	3	5	11
Norway	3	3	2	8
Belarus	3	2	11	16
Ethiopia	3	1	2	6
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Canada	2	2	8	12
Czech Rep	2	2	3	7
Kenya	2	2	1	5
Finland	2	1	1	4
Austria	2	1	0	3
Lithuania	2	0	2	4
Azerbaijan	2	0	1	3
Iran	2	0	1	3
Slovenia	2	0	0	2
Switzerland	1	6	2	9
Indonesia	1	3	2	6
Denmark	1	3	1	5
Slovakia	1	3	1	5
Mexico	1	2	3	6
Kazakhstan	1	2	0	3
Algeria	1	1	2	4
Latvia	1	1	1	3
Bahamas	1	1	0	2
New Zealand	1	0	3	4
Estonia	1	0	2	3
Croatia	1	0	1	2
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
Colombia	1	0	0	1
Mozambique	1	0	0	1
Brazil	0	6	6	12
Jamaica	0	4	3	7
Nigeria	0	3	0	3
Belgium	0	2	3	5
South Africa	0	2	3	5
Argentina	0	2	2	4
Chinese Taipei	0	1	4	5
Morocco	0	1	3	4
North Korea	0	1	3	4
Moldova	0	1	1	2
Trinidad	0	1	1	2
Ireland	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	6	6
Armenia	0	0	2	2
Costa Rica	0	0	2	2
Portugal	0	0	2	2
Barbados	0	0	1	1
Chile	0	0	1	1
Iceland	0	0	1	1
India	0	0	1	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1	1
Kuwait	0	0	1	1
Qatar	0	0	1	1
Si Lanka	0	0	1	1
Thailand	0	0	1	1

## Bubka becomes IOC official

**SYDNEY, Sept 30:** Ukrainian pole vaulter Sergei Bubka was Saturday elected to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive committee as a representative of the athletes at the 111th session of the IOC, reports AFP.

Italy's Ottavio Cincinqua was elected to the executive committee for winter sports federations, ensuring the 15-person panel is now complete. Sergei Bubka defeated Canadian athlete Charmaine Crooks and Norwegian speed-skater Jan Olav Koss in the vote.