

Another Jamaican present

AFP, Singapore

Jamaica has a history of uncovering sprint stars and looks to have another on its hands in Odane Skeen, who claimed the 100m title at the inaugural Youth Olympics.

Skeen powered over the line in a personal best 10.42 seconds, ahead of Japan's Masaki Nashimoto and Britain's David Bolariwa.

His mark is well short of fellow Jamaican Usain Bolt's world record of 9.58sec, but Skeen is still just 15 years old.

He is following in the footsteps of not just Bolt, but also former world record holder Asafa Powell, another Jamaican sprinting king.

In the women's 100m, Nigeria's Josephine Omaka ran powerfully to win in 11.58sec ahead of Myasia Jacobs of the United States and Fany Chalas of the Dominican Republic.

The Youth Olympics, which run from August 14 to 26, are being held for the first time and feature 3,600 athletes aged 14- to 18 competing in the 26 Olympic sports.



Odane Skeen of Jamaica (R) crosses the finish line on way to winning the men's 100 metres gold at the Youth Olympics in Singapore on Saturday.

Dragon gobble up Friends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Dragon Sporting Club defeated Diamond Friends Club 2-0 in the Hafizul Islam Khan Uttu Smriti First Division Football League at the Shaheed Miraz-Tapan Stadium here yesterday.

Nurul Islam took Dragon Sporting Club ahead in the 14th minute before Sharat scored in the 22nd minute and that is how it ended.

This win was Dragon's second apart from the one draw from four matches while Diamond Friends Club are still without a win from three matches.

Palli Mangal Samity and Naba Jagaran Sangsad will face each other today.

Robin leading

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin took solo lead in the Federation Open FIDE Rating Chess Tournament at close of the sixth round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Robin beat Farhadur Imam in the round to raise his collection to 5.5 points.

Eight players --- FM Kh. Aminul Islam, FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon, Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan, Sohel Chowdhury, Monir Hossain, Abdul Momin, Nasiruddin Apu and Mollah Istiak Ahmed -- were in the second place with five points each.

Inter's trophy

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A linesman's flag ruled that out but TV replays suggested the decision was wrong.

However, there was no error on 70 minutes when Eto'o bagged the winner.

Lucio burst forward between two half-hearted tackles and spread the ball wide to Milito who had peeled away to the right. His cross to the near post was inch perfect to find the Cameroon forward making a diagonal run across the box to prod home.

Eto'o grabbed his second, and the decisive third, after another Roma defensive horror show.

Pakistan

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Younus was banned indefinitely for indiscipline in March. Although his ban was later lifted on appeal, he has not been cleared to play by the PCB. That is in contrast to Yousuf, who was also banned only then to be recalled.

Former selection committee chief Iqbal Qasim also demanded Younus's inclusion.

"Pakistan would have been leading the series 2-1 had Younus been in the team," said Qasim, who resigned earlier this year after a disastrous tour of Australia.

"The team played with unity and that's why the result is different. It was because of our inexperience that we lost the first two Tests [against England]," he added.

Pak cricketers

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also donate a proportion of their match fees.

"It's a massive humanitarian catastrophe out there and we're trying to help as much as we can and the more people who do that the better," he said.

YOUTH OLYMPICS Chinese rule the pool

AFP, Singapore

The future of women's swimming revealed itself at the inaugural Youth Olympics in Singapore, and it had a distinctly Chinese flavour.

Less than two years away from the London Olympics, China's women won 11 medals at the Games here for 14 to 18-year-olds.

Individually, Tang Yi claimed six gold and Liu Lan five.

Tang, 17, was the standout performer and seems to have a limitless future, dominating the women's freestyle, winning the 50m, 100m and 200m events.

She was also part of China's 4x100m freestyle and the mixed 4x100m freestyle and medley relay race victories.

"The ambience of the audience and the loudness [of the crowd] really motivated me to do my best," Tang told reporters.

"I'm actually quite happy but I can always do better."

Liu was equally impressive in winning five golds, including the 50m and 100m butterfly. Chinese backstroke specialist Bai Anqi also took home four gold medals while He Jianbin and Dai Jun were among Chinese men winning events.

While China's women were in top form, traditional swimming power Australia won the

most medals overall of any team with 16.

Emily Selig, Nicholas Schafer and Kenneth To emerged as swimmers to watch as London 2012 draws nearer.

Selig is a powerful breaststroke swimmer who dominated the women's 200m race, while Schafer won gold in the men's 100m breaststroke. To was part of the winning youth men's 4x100 medley relay team.

"It's been tough for all of us," To said after taking bronze in the 100m freestyle.

"Competing for six days at the highest level has been mentally and physically tough. But it has been a good experience and it will prepare us for better meets in the future."

Ukraine also showed it intends to be a contender in London, with Daryna Zevina and Andrii Govorov winning five medals between them.

Zevina was a surprise gold medalist in the women's 100m backstroke, while Govorov earned the unofficial moniker of "world's fastest youth swimmer" by taking the men's 50m freestyle in 22.35secs.

The Youth Olympics, which run from August 14 to 26, are being held for the first time and feature 3,600 athletes aged 14 to 18 competing in the 26 Olympic sports.

It is designed as a stepping stone for youngsters striving to compete at an Olympics proper.

Lochte nabs sixth gold

Swimming

APP, Irvine

Ryan Lochte threatened his own world record as he won the 200m individual medley Saturday at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships.

Lochte notched the third-fastest time in history as he won in 1min 54.43 sec, showing that he could challenge the world mark of 1:54.10 that he set last year before high-tech bodysuits were banned.

"I wasn't really focused on getting the world record, I was just focusing on swimming tough," said Lochte, who claimed his sixth gold in four days.

However, Lochte said he did want to show that not all of the world marks set last year -- when the bodysuits contributed to a re-writing of the sport's record book -- are as far out of reach as some have said.

"I just wanted to prove to everyone that it could happen," Lochte said. "... if I'd just taken one or two more dolphin kicks I would've had it."

Behind Lochte, teammate Tyler Clary won the battle for silver with a time of 1:57.61, edging Brazil's Thiago Pereira who took bronze in 1:57.83.

Former world record-holder Michael Phelps opted out of the event, choosing to

focus on his butterfly leg in the 4x100m medley relay.

That paid off as Phelps overtook Masayuki Kishida after Junya Koga and Kosuke Kitajima had given Japan a slim lead going into the butterfly.

Swimming the freestyle anchor leg, American Nathan Adrian sealed the US victory in 3:32.48, with Japan second in 3:33.90 and Australia third in 3:35.55.

Kitajima, who earlier won the 200m breaststroke in the top time of the world this year of 2:08.36, said Japan want to reassert themselves in international relay competition.

"Obviously the United States is above and beyond, but we can put up a good fight," he said.

With the Asian Games looming later this year, Kitajima said he was happy with his week.

"Frankly, I was a little worried about the 200, but I made a very good time for this season so I'm very satisfied," he said.

The United States enjoyed another big night, winning six of 10 events.

Adrian also pipped world record-holder Cesar Cielo in the 100m freestyle.

Adrian ran down the Brazilian in the closing meters of the one-lap sprint to win in 21.55sec. Cielo, the Olympic

and world champion, was second in 21.57 and Canada's Brent Hayden was third in 21.89.

Cielo, who won the 50m butterfly Wednesday but was third in the 100m free, was disappointed.

"My freestyle is not going as well as I expected," he said. "I probably haven't done well in practice. I've probably missed something during the season. My 100 free wasn't good and today wasn't good. I'm not as fit as I wanted to be here."

Jessica Hardy, swimming her first major international championships since serving a two-year drugs ban, won the women's 50m free in 24.63sec, with fellow American Amanda Weir second in 24.70. Canada's Victoria Poon was third in 24.76.

Hardy came back to anchor the US women's 4x100m medley relay in a hard-fought victory over Australia.

Although they couldn't hold on for a medley relay win, Australia's women brought home two golds on the last day of action in the pool.

Rain scuppers Montreal semis

REUTERS, Montreal

With just two games of the two semifinals played and poor weather forecast for Sunday the Rogers Cup in Montreal is set for a late finish. Persistent rain allowed only 10 minutes of the semifinal between Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki and Russian Svetlana Kuznetsov to be played.

After six hours of delays, tournament officials finally threw in the soggy towel and rescheduled the semifinals for early on Sunday followed by the final.

However, with the forecast predicting even heavier rain on Sunday, tournament director Eugene Lapierre admitted to the possibility of a Monday finish.

"Radar is not so good; it says 100 per cent chance of rain but it doesn't mean it is going to rain the whole day," Lapierre said. "I've rarely seen days when we could play only two games, I would be very surprised to see that again."

ECB to ban tweeting!

INTERNET

England's cricketers are set to be slapped with a Twitter and Facebook ban by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), according to reports.

Stars Graeme Swann, James Anderson, Kevin Pietersen and Steven Finn have amassed more than 145,000 Twitter followers between them.

But the Mail on Sunday reported that the players are facing a social media blackout as the team management wants to ensure the squad are focussed on practice and their on-field performance.

England Under-19 player Azeem Rafiq was banned from all cricket for a month and fined 500 pounds in July after launching a foul-mouthed Twitter tirade attacking coach John Abrahams.

Having been dropped from the side, the Yorkshire all-rounder tweeted: "John Abrahams is a useless...."

And the ECB are keen to curb any further embarrassing outbursts, while also ensuring dressing-room secrets do not become public.

While the players see their online activity as harmless fun, the ECB, supported by captain Andrew Strauss, are planning to write a clause in the new contracts for the 2010-11 season banning the use of Twitter while on international duty.

Bremen

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After Austrian striker Erwin Hoffer got around the back of the Cologne defence, Mohamad was the last defender and when he brought down Hoffer, referee Doctor Felix Brych showed him a straight red card.

In the other results, Moenchengladbach drew 1-1 at home to Nuremberg as Cameroon striker Mohamadou Idrissou equalised for the hosts.

Hanover beat Frankfurt 2-1 while newly-promoted St Pauli scored three goals in the last eight minutes to seal a 3-1 win at Freiburg.

Yousuf the difference

Cricket

AFP, London

Pakistan captain Salman Butt said the return of Mohammad Yousuf to his side was one of the catalysts for their four-wicket win over England here at The Oval on Saturday.

The veteran Yousuf hit a first innings half century, helping Azhar Ali through to 92 not out and made 33 in Pakistan's nervous pursuit of the 148 they needed for victory.

Yousuf was banned for life in March for his part in Pakistan's disastrous tour of Australia in the winter. That ban was lifted and although he could not play in the second Test at Edgbaston because of jetlag his presence was crucial in the win that cut England's lead to 2-1 in the series with one to play.

It was Pakistan's second Test win in England -- they beat Australia at Headingley recently in the second match of their two-game series against Ricky Ponting's side.

And Butt claims the mix of youth and experience will help Pakistan become one of the world's leading sides.

"Mohammad Yousuf really helped and the youngsters have fed off his experience," said Butt.

"But everyone chipped in and it was a real team effort. This is a young team but it has great

potential -- we showed that against Australia and we have shown it again against England.

"This team needs time but it will become one of the best sides."

England captain Andrew Strauss, presiding over his side's first Test defeat of the summer, said his team were under pressure from the moment they lost five wickets in the first session of the game.

But he dismissed any claims that England were hampered by complacency after winning the first two Tests so comfortably.

"I don't think complacency comes into it at all," he said. "Our bowling was outstanding in the first innings but credit to the way Pakistan played."

"We weren't complacent we just didn't play well enough and that is the nuts and bolts of it."

England's batting has failed to fire in this series with only Jonathan Trott of the top six batsmen averaging over 40 in the three Tests.

Alastair Cook probably saved his place after a string of poor scores with 110 but Kevin Pietersen, Strauss himself and Paul Collingwood are all short of runs.

"We are not bad players but we have not batted well enough in this game as a unit," said Strauss.

"They are all quality players, we just need to get some runs on the board."

The fourth and final Test begins at Lord's on Thursday.

Strauss has no worries

Cricket

AFP, London

England captain Andrew Strauss has restated his belief in England's fragile top-order as his side heads to the fourth and final Test against Pakistan at Lord's on Thursday.

England collapsed in both their innings at The Oval as Pakistan clawed their way back into the series, which now stands at 2-1 to England, with a four-wicket win here on Saturday.

England's top-order has misfired throughout the season with Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Alastair Cook and Strauss himself all averaging under 30 in three Tests against the Pakistanis.

But Strauss insists he has no worries about his run-getters as England get set to play their last Test match before they begin the defence of the Ashes against Australia in Brisbane in November.

"You have to get runs on the board but I don't feel like I have any real concerns over any particular member of our batting unit because I think we're all quality players," Strauss told reporters at The Oval after England's defeat.

"Test cricket is about managing your game and we have got to be clear about how to manage ours."

"We lost the match because of two poor sessions with the bat. We don't want to see these types of collapses."

"Pakistan are a dangerous side and their bowlers were outstanding on the first day and on Friday, when the ball was reverse-swinging."

"Maybe we need to work on batting more time and to assess the conditions, but I don't think complacency comes into it."

"If you keep doing that then you're putting yourself under pressure unnecessarily, especially when it's the top order. But if you're asking are we bad players, I don't think that's true."

Cook at least booked his Ashes trip with 110 in England's second innings and, after a desperate run of form, can look forward to opening the batting with Strauss in Australia.

Strauss added: "He got himself in that position where he felt he had to prove himself. There was a huge amount of attention on him and having been in that position myself I know it's a very tough place for a batsman to be."

"You have to dig deep and it's a test of character -- not technique or anything like that. In terms of that I thought he was outstanding."

Fed hopes to catch Fish

Tennis

APP, Cincinnati

Mardy Fish reached the championship of the Cincinnati Masters event by rallying to beat American compatriot Andy Roddick 4-6, 7-6, 6-1 on Saturday.

The unseeded Fish was able to regroup during a third rain delay and upset the former world number one in the semifinal match.

Roddick led 5-2 in the second set when the players briefly went to the locker room. Fish was in top form when they returned.

"I was just lucky to get out of it," Fish said.

In Sunday's final, Fish was to play Swiss superstar Roger Federer who easily beat unseeded Marcos Baghdatis 6-4, 6-3.

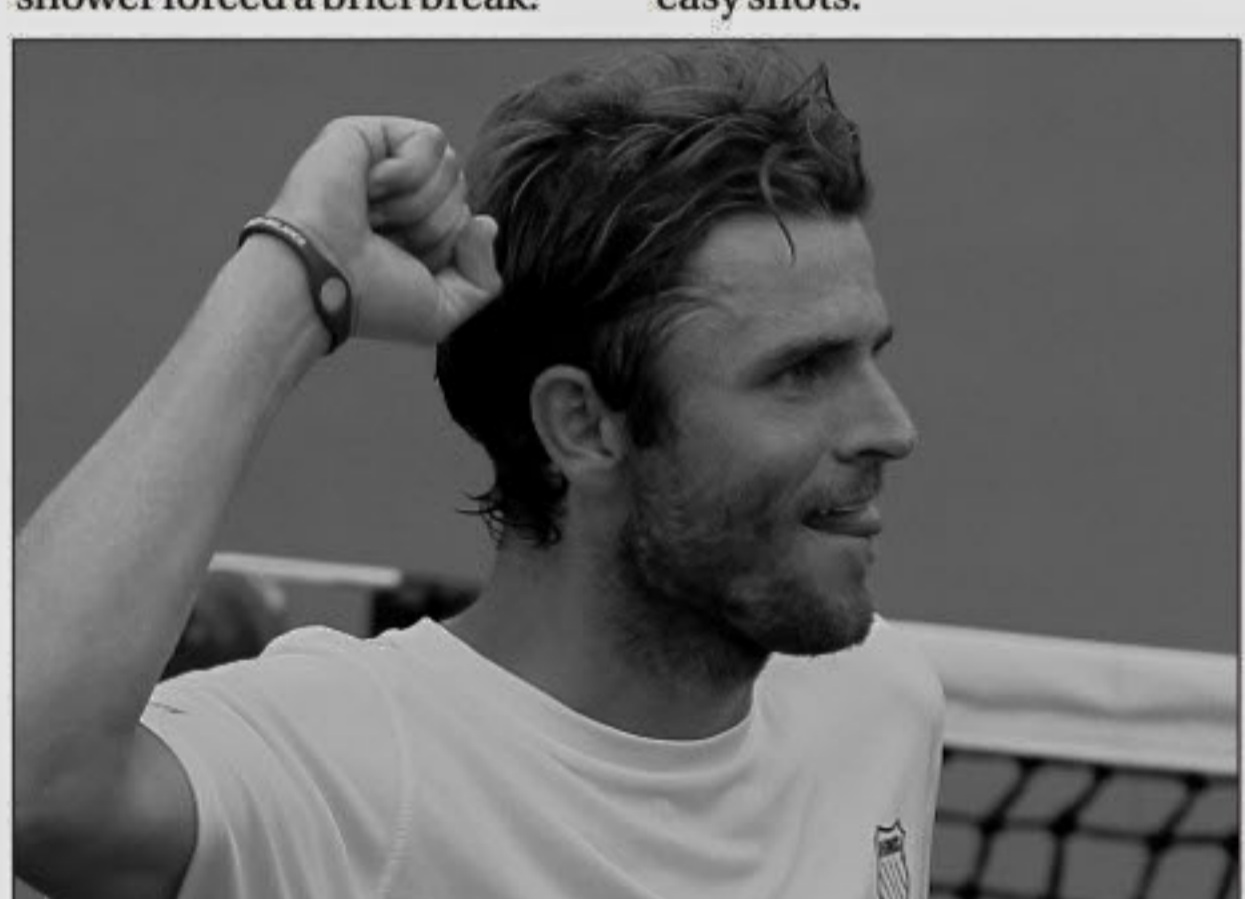
"It wasn't long at all," Fish said of the break. "It was only a couple minutes that we were back there, so I just changed [clothes]. It was only a couple of minutes."

The beginning of the match was delayed 50 minutes by heavy rain. Another cloudburst during the first set resulted in a one-hour delay. Roddick was up 5-4 coming out of the delay. Fish dumped three forehands into the net while Roddick captured the set.

Roddick built a 5-2 lead in the second set when another shower forced a brief break.

Fish knew he was in deep trouble when he came back on the court.

This time, Fish was better when they returned to the hardcourt stadium. He broke Roddick's serve for the first time in the match to keep it going, then won the tiebreaker when Roddick began missing easy shots.



Mardy Fish celebrates beating Andy Roddick in the Cincinnati Masters semifinals at the Lindner Family Tennis Centre on Saturday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Siamese
5 "My country, ..."
8 Mountain-eer's grip
12 Choir's rendition
13 Autumn mo.
14 Aesopian also-ran
15 Majestic tale
16 Mauna --
17 Never again?
18 Adapt
20 Incursion
22 Den
29 Shade
30 Scratch
31 Penjurer
32 Golf target
33 Saxophone range
34 Swiss canton
35 Music appreciation

DOWN

1 Not us
2 Syringe, for short
3 In the thick of
4 Cutting tooth
5 Asian capital
6 Lemieux milieu
7 Fledgling business
8 Carolers, e.g.
9 Without rhyme or reason
10 Curved line
11 Right turn signal

36 Bottomless pit
37 Award for a Cub, e.g.
40 Erstwhile Peruvian
41 Mixologist's fixture
45 Dogfight participants
47 Shad product
49 Forum garment
50 React to yeast
51 First lady
52 Maze runner's goal
53 Damon or Dillon
54 Check

19 Media monitor (Abbr.)
21 Chowd down
23 Enterprise officer
24 Dobbin's dinner
25 Experts
26 Grad
27 Tragic
28 Least bald
32 Life, to Sally Bowles
33 Helped a hood
35 List-ending abbr.
36 Census stat
38 Map within a map
39 Nerdy sort
42 Squarish
43 Not "fer"
44 Assessment
45 Branch
46 Spy novel org.
48 47-

Solution time: 25 mins.

LET	TOM
PAPA	PITAS
TONIC	ETHICS
STACKS	THEDECK
PSI	LATER
EELY	OILS
VERDE	CIRCE
RIPA	AUNT
ONO	USTS
DECKSTH	EHALLS
SHITTE	OMEGA
STEER	RIGA
ERR	TRY

Across, e.g.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18			19			20	21			
			22			23			24	25
26	27	28				29			30	
31					32				33	
34					35				36	
37			38					39		
			40					41		
45	46				47	48			49	
50					51				52	
53					54				55	

CRYPTOQUIP

L Q C Y H M W O M Q R D H V V
N C N L V T X V H V N M H A M A C
Q C I M W T S V Y C T N M W P V S C H E , L
X M W P E A C I V R D V I T R H L O P V R T .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ACTRESS YOU'D EXPECT TO FIND HAPPILY DWELLING IN A FRENCH WINE REGION: BRIGITTE BORDEAUX.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals O