

## Foreword

What is learning English through Sports Communication? To learn sports vocabulary such as equipment and rules or to read sports fan websites or to read sports product reviews or to write about profiles of sports idols or to produce advertising leaflets as suggested in the EDB resource package? What is the use of such glossaries and facts to our lives? Can such knowledge broaden our horizons and take us beyond the turf of sports to other parts of the world? Is such information thought-provoking and effective in urging us to think more about human strengths and weaknesses?

“Most of our panel members are ladies, who are not so keen on sports, so this module is out of the question in our school,” said many people. Who to teach? Are sports experts such as PE teachers the only suitable candidates for this job? I used to think so. I do exercise not too rarely, but I cycle at the pace of walking, do not do more than 8 laps at each swimming trip in the pool and do not sweat much after playing squash. I know nothing about golf but I followed the news about Tiger Wood’s defeats during his father’s dying days and my heart sank for him. His determination to climb out of the abyss out of gratitude towards his beloved dad was more than touching. Tennis and motor-cycling are and will always be beyond my capabilities, and yet stories about Nadal and Federer and Sinner among others fascinate me. “I was close to perfect at the match and he made a few more mistakes than usual,” said Nadal about his victory over Federer in July 2008. How can you not moved by such simple words of great pride for one’s achievement and at the same time of great respect for the defeated? Sinner was a man in history but I still read with interest how Schumaker are compared with him. How far would have Sinner gone if he had not died young?

The sport page is nothing less than great literature. Anyone who enjoys serious books and films and takes pleasure in thinking about life can’t miss this page. The reading is even more indispensable for those who are looking for elegant styles of writing to improve their language standards. ( SCMP and Mingpao are strongly recommended for serious readers. )

The following ideas are some possibilities of enhancing students’ critical thinking and language skills. Time constraints have compelled me to provide only raw material and primitive teaching suggestions accompanied with only a few worksheets.

**Perspectives**

A. Personal	B National / International	C. Commercial	D. Miscellaneous
<p>1. Health</p> <p>2. Image</p> <p>3. Growth :</p> <p>    a. Struggle – Studies or sport?</p> <p>    b. Finding a purpose in life</p> <p>    c. Black sheep coming back</p> <p>4. Sports change one’s fate</p>	<p>1. National honour</p> <p>2. National unity</p> <p>    – Iraq</p> <p>    - Spain</p> <p>3. Politics</p> <p>    a. As propaganda</p> <p>    b. To achieve political aims</p> <p>    c. To prevent political unrest at the Beijing Olympics</p> <p>        -Tibet &amp; Torch Relays</p> <p>        -Nazi Olympics</p> <p>        -Munich massacre</p> <p>d. Ping-pong diplomacy</p>	<p>1. Big business – celebrity endorsement</p> <p>2. Commemorative products</p> <p>3. Gambling</p>	<p>1. Uplifting &amp; inspiring stories</p> <p>2. Gamesmanship</p> <p>3. Doping</p> <p>4. Literature</p>

## A. Personal perspectives

### **1. Sport and Health** (Refer to the Appendix)

#### Activity ONE: Role Play

Situations – A mother urges her son / daughter to do exercise / play sports during the long summer holiday.

- A teenage girl / a young lady urges her boyfriend to do exercise / play sports with her during the long summer holiday.

#### Activity TWO: Discussion

- Why are people often encouraged to do exercise? What is the impact of doing exercise on life?
- What are the reasons for not playing sports regularly?
- What is the difference between doing exercise casually and engaging in sports seriously?
- What are the pros and cons of individual and team sports?
- Give examples of national sports of the following countries. Are there any special reasons for a certain type of sport to become a national one in a particular country? What makes a national sport in general? Account for the development.

China	Japan	America	Brazil	Australia

### **2. Sport and Image**

#### Activity: Discussion

- Is it a bit embarrassing to say that you seldom play sports? / Is it a proud moment when you say you play sports regularly?
- What do people think of those who (do not) play sports regularly?
- Do different kinds of sports imply different statuses?

### **3. Sports and Personal Growth**

#### a. Struggle : giving up studies for sports with a short career life

##### Activity : Role Play

Situation – A Form Five schoolboy, who is an aspiring badminton player, argues with his parents, who oppose his intention to give up his studies for full-time training for the Asian Youth Cup. The boy has never come lower than third in form since Primary Four.

#### b. Finding a purpose in life (Refer to the Appendixes)

##### Activity ONE : Read the articles about the following people.

- Former Hong Kong Cyclist Hung  
 “Coming from a poor single-parent family, Hung left home after he was expelled from school. But he had a great passion for cycling and worked hard to hone his skills.”

- Mountaineer Hart – Suddenly, it was the end of 2003 and something was troubling him. ‘ “I looked back on the year and asked myself what I had accomplished,” he said. Nothing specific came to mind. It was during this period of reflection that he settled on climbing the Seven Summits in order to have an annual high-light to remember.’

c. Black sheep coming back on the right track- Education Chief

“I spent the first two years at university-like any other student- drinking and gambling. But a school friend of mine who had stayed true to running got me back on track.”

Activity:

- Compare the three athletes using a table: type of sport, cause of turning to sport, present job
- Work in groups of three. Each one chooses one of the articles and quotes three sentences or three points of the chosen article. Then they share their favourite parts with each other.

**4. Sports change one’s fate** (Shaporova) (Refer to the Appendix)

- How did her talent change her course of life?
- Give examples of people who play sports very hard in order to improve their lives.

**B. National / International perspectives**

**1. National honour**

Governments take international sporting events very seriously because it is a matter of national honour. Last year (2007) there was a news article about a female long distance runner from a small war-torn country, who persisted with her training despite death threats and a very slim chance of winning a medal. All that mattered to her was that her participation would mean putting back her country back on the world stage. Such a humble wish was unimaginable to those who can talk about their homeland proudly.

Cuba (Refer to the Appendix)

“Former dictator Fidel Castro banned fighters from turning profession, believing they should serve their country by winning medals that glorify the nation, rather than chasing their own fortune in the pro ranks.”

Activity : Discussion in groups of four

- What are the pros and cons of the ban?
- Are serving the country and turning professional incompatible?
- What would you do now to stop elite athletes leaving the country if you were head of Cuba?

2. **National unity – Iraq & Spain** (Refer to the Appendix)

Activity: Discussion

- What is in common between the victory of Iraq and Spain in world sporting events?
- What lessons have people learnt from a victory resulted from co-operation between rival groups of a country?
- Do you think you can work in harmony with members of a rival group? (A rival group refer to those who compete with the group you belong to)

3. **Politics** (Refer to the Appendixes)

a. As propaganda to show a country's progress

- Beijing Olympics

The Central Government has been sparing no effort to present a highly developed national image to visitors. Infra-structure has been upgraded. Citizens have been encouraged to learn or further improve their spoken English and get into the habit of queuing up. These are good. But “rubbish collectors have been asked to return to their home provinces until after the Olympics as part of a bid to present a sanitized Games.” Is this reasonable?

b. To achieve political aims

- Tibet & Torch Relay

Activity ONE : Discussion in groups of four:

- Should pro-Tibet groups have disrupted torch relays? Are there any other better ways?
- Should pro-Tibet groups be given rights to make protests?

Activity TWO: Free writing

Write a response to the letters to the editor (refer to the appendixes)

- Nazi Olympics

“There was nothing the International Olympic Committee could do to stop the Nazis using the Olympics to promote their political ideas.”

- Munich massacre, a Great Tragedy

A deeply saddening chapter in sports history, which should be introduced to students.

Activity : Debates

- Political aims can effectively be achieved at sporting events.
- Political aims should be achieved at sporting events.

c. To prevent political unrest at the Beijing Olympics

The headlines of this article reads

“Restrictions vex residents, tourists

Capital akin to a forbidden city in run-up to Games”

Activity : Free writing

It is understandable that the Central Government wants to ensure smooth completion of the Games. But has the Central Government over-reacted? Is the national honour at such a great risk? Will too many bans spoil the Beijing Olympics?

d. To forge a political relationship

Ping-pong Diplomacy

Activity ONE : Oral presentation

Give an account of the famous diplomatic tactic as a political ice-breaker in two minutes.

Activity TWO: Research

- Write about 80 words on the famous people mentioned in the article. Present the information in the form of a table.
- Why was ping-pong a successful bridge between China and other nations?
- Why did Premier Wen play baseball during his visit to Japan this year?

C. Commercial perspectives

1. Big business – celebrity endorsement

Activity ONE: Watch YouTube- TV Commercial - Guillet

and write down the lines of the three athletes and the voice-over

and compare the message with those of other TV commercials, sports and non-sports

Activity TWO: Discussion in groups of four

- “More and more people are paying to see pretty faces caring little about actual performance of athletes.” Do you agree?
- “Top athletes are like movie/pop stars in terms of income and influence.” Do you agree?
- “Sports have become more and more commercialized, stripped of their primary function.” Do you agree?

2. Commemorative products (Refer to the Appendix)

Activity ONE – Discussion in groups of four

- What do you think is the ratio of people who buy the banknotes for “a slice of Games history” and who buy the banknotes for re-selling to make quick money?
- Should commemorative products be released in limited edition? Why or why not?

Activity TWO – Write a one-act play showing a scene of the long queue over the two nights.

### 3. Gambling

Activity ONE : Do research and compare sport pages of different newspapers. What is the focus of their reports? On mere results or on analysis of skills and strategies shown in events? Do their reports help readers appreciate the true qualities of certain sports and athletes better?

Activity TWO : Debate

“Soccer gambling should not have been legalized in Hong Kong.”

## D. Other perspectives

### 1. Uplifting Inspiring stories (Refer to the Appendixes)

a. More than just a pretty face – Footballer Beckham

He was consigned to the reserve list twice and yet he insisted on training hard. His positive attitude was a great pleasant surprise to me.

b. Strong determination – Swimmer Shanteau put cancer behind Anita Mui

c. Courage and determination– Disabled cyclist Otxoa came back after being hit by a car, seeing his brother die and spending two months in a coma

d. Indomitable will - Blind mountaineer Welhenmayer lost his vision completely at 13– “When I went blind it was like getting hit in the head with a sledgehammer: I was not afraid to see darkness. What I worried about was that my life would become meaningless...But you have to turn into the storm and take it head on.”

Activity : Drama

Write a 15-minute play on the impact of the fighting spirit of a determined athlete on a teenage schoolboy who is thinking of giving up his studies after repeated academic failures.

### 2. Gamesmanship (Refer to the Appendix)

Activity: Give a 2-minute presentation on ‘gamesmanship’.

### 3. Doping (Refer to the Appendix)

Activity ONE: Write a summary comparing the three cases of doping

Activity TWO: Do research and find out what kinds of sports are often associated with doping and why.

Activity THREE : Role Play

Situation : Person One accuses the other two of failing to observe sportsmanship.

Person Two defends himself against the accusation of gamesmanship

Person Three defends himself against the accusation of doping.

### 4. Literature (Refer to the Appendix for Example 1)

Many sports journalists are great writers and their writing is simply serious literature in terms of both analytical depth and language skills (e.g. employing figure of speech and rhymes). Profiles/ short biographies of top quality are often found in Sunday Morning Post.

Example 2 (July 17, 2008)

<p>From <b>hero</b> to <b>zero</b> – Ronaldinho’s rise and fall at Barcelona</p> <p>Two seasons ago Ronaldinho was <b>the undisputed king</b> of world football, enjoying a hero-like statue at Barcelona having <b>steered</b> the club to back-to-back league titles and victory in the Champions League.</p> <p>In 18 months, the Brazilian has suffered <b>a fall from grace</b> and <b>is on his way</b> from the Nou Camp.</p> <p>A dilettante attitude to training, a serious loss of form, an apparent weight problem and the rise of a new generation of hungry youngsters account for the change in attitude towards a player <b>who was one of the most prized possessions</b> in the game.</p>	<p>China geared up to <b>break</b> European fencing <b>stranglehold</b></p> <p>China’s fencing team are hoping to <b>break European domination</b> of the <b>chivalric</b> sport by producing <b>a gilt-edged performance</b> in Beijing</p> <p>The <b>dynasties</b> of France, Italy and Hungary have dominated Olympiads since the 1960s but China <b>made all the headlines</b> in Athens, wining three silvers, and <b>narrowly missing</b> gold in a <b>controversial</b> bout against Italy in the men’s team foil final.</p>
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<p>- <b>undisputed</b>      - <b>gilt-edged</b>      - <b>chivalric</b> - <b>hero</b>      - <b>dynasties</b>      - <b>a fall from grace</b></p>	<p>-- <b>prized possessions</b>      - <b>controversial</b> - <b>stranglehold</b>      - <b>made all the headlines</b></p>
<p>From 1 _____ to <b>zero</b> – Ronaldinho’s rise and fall at Barcelona</p> <p>Two seasons ago Ronaldinho was <b>the</b> <b>2</b> _____ <b>king</b> of world football, enjoying a hero-like statue at Barcelona having <b>steered</b> the club to back-to-back league titles and victory in the Champions League.</p> <p>In 18 months, the Brazilian has suffered <b>3</b> _____ and <b>is on his way</b> from the Nou Camp.</p> <p>A dilettante attitude to training, a serious loss of form, an apparent weight problem and the rise of a new generation of hungry youngsters account for the change in attitude towards a player <b>who</b> <b>was one of the most 4</b> _____ in the game.</p>	<p>China geared up to <b>break</b> European fencing 5 _____</p> <p>China’s fencing team are hoping to <b>break</b> <b>European domination</b> of the 6 _____ sport by producing <b>a 7</b> _____ <b>performance</b> in Beijing</p> <p>The 8 _____ of France, Italy and Hungary have dominated Olympiads since the 1960s but China 9 _____ in Athens, wining three silvers, and <b>narrowly</b> <b>missing</b> gold in a 10 _____ bout against Italy in the men’s team foil final.</p>



Further discussion topics in groups of four

1. What is the true spirit of World sporting events? (Refer to the Appendix)
2. Cruel common values- Second place means defeat regardless of hard work. What kind of champion should we aim at?
3. Resource allocation–  
Should government resources be focused on promoting public involvement in sports (considering the rising fees of using sports facilities, which have become inaccessible to the grassroots) or on producing medalists?

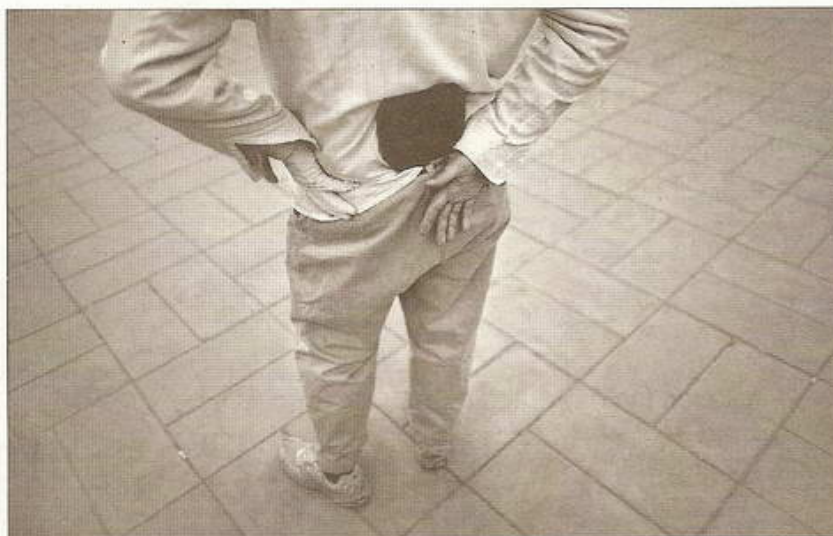
Last suggestion

Visit [www.wimbledon.org](http://www.wimbledon.org) and get raw material for improving the four basic language skills

# A passion for p



Ping-pong is more than just a sport in China – it is part of daily life. The national sport is loved by both young and old, and all that is needed to play are a table, two bats and a ball



TOP Two boys hide their faces with bats as they wait for their turn to play.  
ABOVE A player stores his bat while waiting to play at a park in the capital.

## Fast pace

Table tennis has its origins as an after-dinner pastime in Victorian England. The modern game has moved on a long way...

A match at elite level lasts an average of

**30**mins

The ball travels at speeds of more than

**160**km/h

The number of players who compete in sanctioned tournaments worldwide each year

**10**m

The record set in 1993 for the number of times a ball can be hit back and forth in 60 seconds

**173**

Worldwide popularity ranking, in terms of people's participation

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

# PHOTO ESSAY

Oded Balilty/AP



ABOVE A couple play table tennis outside an apartment building in Beijing. The game's important cultural role is evident just by looking around the r

# Ride to stardom

Play focuses on how a cyclist overcame obstacles to reach the top of his profession, writes **Elaine Yau**

An uplifting drama based on the extraordinary life of a local cycling champion will be staged by the Wan Chai Theatre in August.

Directed by Ho Wai-lung, *To Dream The Impossible Dream* revolves around the struggles of former star cyclist Hung Chung-yam before he gained success and fame in the sports arena.

Coming from a poor single-parent family, Hung left home after he was expelled from school. But he had a great passion for cycling and worked hard to hone his skills.

It wasn't long before Hung began to make his mark in local competitions and he first represented Hong Kong in an international event in 1981.

He came 12th in the road race at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Elton Lau Ho-cheung, who plays the cycling hero in the production, is impressed with Hung's extraordinary achievements against the odds.

"It's really an honour for me to play him. His determination and perseverance in pursuing his goal was incredible," said Lau.

"I met him several times and his modesty also impressed me a lot.

"In spite of his tremendous achievements as an athlete and later success in the insurance industry, he is very modest."

To prepare for his role, Lau said he sometimes rides the bike.

"When I was young, I cycled in Sha Tin and Tai Wai where Mr Hung also trained. The fact that Mr Hung and I have something in common helps me prepare for my role better," said the graduate from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

*To Dream The Impossible Dream* will be staged from August 1 to 3 at Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre. For inquiries, call 2268 7323. Student tickets cost HK\$80 and HK\$55.



HUNG CHUNG-YAM (RIGHT) IS PLAYED BY ELTON LAU HO-CHEUNG (ABOVE, FOREGROUND) IN THE PRODUCTION. LAU IS SEEN WITH DANIEL CHOY, WHO PLAYS THE ELDER BROTHER OF THE CYCLIST. PHOTOS: LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**Rise to stardom** by Elaine Yau

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**Everest 8,850 m**  
**Lhotse 8,501m**  
**Nuptse 7851m**  
South Col  
Camp IV 8,000m  
Camp III 7,200m  
Base II Advance Base Camp 6,500m  
Western Cwm  
Camp I 5,950m  
Khumbu Ice Fall  
Base Camp 5,400m  
Khumbu Glacier

CHINA (Tibet)  
NEPAL  
INDIA  
Mt Everest  
Kathmandu  
100 km

**Rob Hart climbs Aconcagua, South America's highest peak and one of the highly sought-after Seven Summits, while, left, is his schedule for tackling Everest.**  
SCMP Photos

**“Do not run on Everest. Take it slow. I've seen people burn themselves out because they hurry”**

**Keith Kerr**  
Swire Properties chairman

## Hart's high adventure

Not content with successfully climbing the corporate ladder in Hong Kong, Rob Hart is spending this month and next attempting to climb the world's highest peak – Mount Everest – as part of his Seven Summits goal of climbing the highest mountain on each continent.

Hart, 33, is taking a two-month leave from his position as an executive director with Morgan Stanley. He flew to Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday and if all goes well he should be on the 8,850-metre summit of Mt Everest towards the end of May. It can take up to nine weeks due to the weather and the time required to adapt to the high altitude at each stage of the climb.

When he arrived in Hong Kong from South Africa in February, 1996, Hart was armed with a finance degree, a lot of determination and not much experience. He ended up being a cook at The Jump for three months before joining Morgan Stanley, one of the world's largest investment banks, and Hart's career began to take off.

Suddenly, it was the end of 2003 and something was troubling him. "I looked back on the year and asked myself what I

had accomplished," he said. Nothing specific came to mind.

It was during this period of reflection that he settled on climbing the Seven Summits in order to have an annual highlight to remember. So far, he has climbed Kilimanjaro (5,895m) in Tanzania and Aconcagua in Argentina, which is 6,962m and the highest peak outside of the Himalayas.

"So much of your life you can't remember, but I can remember every day spent climbing on Aconcagua," he said of his December adventure. In February last year, he climbed Kilimanjaro with his father. Hart has also been to the top of Mont Blanc in France with his wife, Anna. They were married in October.

To celebrate his birthday last weekend, the Harts went to Bali. They climbed volcanoes to help him prepare for the challenge ahead. Anna is concerned but remains supportive of his mountaineering, despite having to listen to him constantly talk about the trip over the past few months. The least of her beefs is that he will conveniently miss the day they move into a new flat.

Hart's parents also know about his Seven Summits goal, which perhaps all started when he climbed to the top of a 700m granite monolith called Paarl Rock in Cape Town at the age of five. Since then he's been running and climbing all over the world.

"My mum told me to be careful. Dad said don't be stupid," he said. His mother-in-law also wished him good luck when he was in Boston recently on business. Even his boss at Morgan Stanley agreed to give him the time off – unpaid, of course.

If Hart's first attempt at Everest is successful, that will leave Denali/Mount

McKinley in Alaska (6,194m), Vinson Massif in Antarctica (4,897m), Elbrus in Russia (5,633m) and Carstensz Pyramid in Irian Jaya, Indonesia (4,884m). He plans to climb one per year.

However, success on Everest is never

guaranteed. Many people have got to within a few hundred metres of the summit only to be forced to turn around by the weather. The first Hong Kong mountaineer to accomplish the Seven Summits, Chung Kin-man, made it to the top of Everest in 2003 on his fifth attempt. Climbing partner Cham Yick-lai was the first Hong Kong-Chinese to reach the summit when he did it in 1992, but Chung came up short that year due to a storm.

Hundreds of people have died on the mountain, either trying to reach the summit or not returning on their way back down to base camp. Fitness obviously plays a role, but there are many other factors. Good weather is the main one. Logistics and preparation are also important.

Hart has chosen to join an expedition organised by Adventure Consultants of New Zealand, which is run by accomplished mountaineer Guy Cotter. The company has a solid reputation for getting people to the top, and back. This year the expedition will have seven climbers, including one who is blind. The cost to join the Everest expedition is US\$55,000 and that basically covers everything upon arrival in Nepal.

Fitness shouldn't be a problem either. Hart is in fantastic shape and is a regular participant in several types of adventure races. Perhaps the biggest obstacle to his attempt will be to take it slow at all times to conserve energy and remain with the other six climbers in his expedition.

That was the main point of a discussion Hart had recently with Keith Kerr, the chairman of Swire Properties and an avid mountaineer who first climbed Everest in 1992. "The art of getting there is to play it cool," Kerr said. He also recommended taking books, a music player and a journal to write in.

"Do not run on Everest," he said. "Take it nice and slow. I've seen people burn themselves out because they hurry. Relax, relax, relax . . . you are part of a system on Everest." Another good piece of advice from Kerr was to always be the last person into each camp on the way up. "That way, the water is hot and the soup is on. It's all about saving it to get to the top," Kerr said.

And with those words of advice, Hart is off to face one of the biggest challenges known to man.

● If you are interested in learning how to climb, contact Chung Kin-man's HK Mountaineering Training Centre in Mongkok on 2770-6746.

To follow Rob Hart's progress online, visit [www.adventureconsultants.co.nz](http://www.adventureconsultants.co.nz) and click on Expedition News.





**Hongkongers can go  
the distance – if they  
are ready to sweat**

# Education chief can't shake the running bug, says Alvin Sallay

**T**he No 8 signal was raised and wind gusts of up to 150km/h were lashing in heavy rain from severe tropical storm Fengshen. But these were only minor hindrances to Chris Wardlaw as he went for a quick early morning run around the Sai Kung promenade on Wednesday.

While most of Hong Kong was covering indoors, former Australian Olympic marathoner Wardlaw decided to make the most of the opportunity nature had provided with offices closed due to the typhoon signal.

"Normally I run during my lunch hour, but since all offices were closed in the morning, I went for a quick run, even though the No 8 signal was up," says Wardlaw a couple of hours later in his workplace, a dishevelled room in Wan Chai which looked as though the wind god had been there, too.

"All my colleagues think I'm mad," Wardlaw grins. The deputy secretary for education runs about 10km from his office in Queen's Road East up Bowen Road and back in less than 40 minutes every day if his schedule allows. No sweat. On weekends, he runs longer.

Old habits die hard. At 58 Wardlaw still can't shake the running bug from in his system. This enduring affair has seen him compete at two Olympics – 1976 and 1980 – and coach at every other Olympics after that apart from 1984.

In August, he will be a spectator at the Bird's Nest stadium in Beijing, mainly following the fortunes of Chinese hurdler Liu Xiang and, of course, the track and field team from Down Under.

"I'm a huge Liu Xiang fan. I have turned Chinese. I watched him win the gold medal in Athens four years ago and I have been barracking for him ever since. He is sensational, a fabulous athlete," says Wardlaw.

Wardlaw arrived in Hong Kong in 2002 to take up his position with the Education Bureau where he looks after the "curriculum and assessment" for schools

from pre-primary to secondary level. His work has kept him busy, to the detriment of Hong Kong athletics which could benefit from his knowledge and expertise.

"There is a lot of talent in Hong Kong, especially in distance running. There is more talent here than we realise, as distance-running is suited to the Chinese body type," Wardlaw says.

Although junior athletes produced gold-medal winning performances at the Asian Championships in the 100 metres and high jump, perhaps more emphasis should be placed on distance running.

"The Chinese have great motor skills which have resulted in them dominating sports like table tennis and badminton. But they are also very good at distance running. Just look at the Chinese women," says Wardlaw.

"It is like Australia at swimming. We are good because everyone is taught to swim from a young age. It is part of our tradition

There is a lot of talent in Hong Kong, especially in distance running. There is more talent here than we realise

Former Olympian Chris Wardlaw

and culture."

But genetic make-up and the environment you are raised in are just a part of the equation, says Wardlaw, a firm believer in the maxim there is no gain without pain.

"High-performance sport doesn't come by accident," he says. "People are not just born into it. If that was the case, I would never have been an Olympian because I was not even the best runner at school. Talent doesn't mean a thing if you don't work hard and train."

The environment he grew up in pushed him towards running. Ralph Doubell, an 800m gold medalist at the 1968 Mexico Olympics, was an old boy of Melbourne High School which Wardlaw attended – an

institution which has a great tradition in distance running.

"I dabbled a bit in other sports like Australian Rules [football] and cricket, but I got heavily involved in running because of the tradition of the school. At first I used to get down to the oval and run every night, timing myself," Wardlaw says.

But it was only in his third year at Monash University that he began to get serious. Slightly built – he says he travels light – he realised he could become a road-runner.

"I spent the first two years at university – like any other student – drinking and gambling. But a school friend of mine who had stayed true to running got me back on track," he says.

It wasn't long before he was in full flow. A few years later, he was running the 10,000m at the 1976 Montreal Olympics where he finished 12th. Four years later at the Moscow Games he had switched to the marathon. He had a poor finish, but refuses to blame it on the political turmoil leading up to the Games.

A US-led boycott – protesting over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan – robbed the Games of its lustre. Although the Australian government, led by Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, backed the Americans, the Australian Olympic Committee withstood pressure to pull out.

Wardlaw was among the main advocates for going to Moscow, and keeping alive Australia's record of being one of four nations – the other three being Greece, Britain and France – to have participated in every Olympics in the modern era.

"I spent half the time battling against the boycott. But that was no excuse for how I fared so badly and finished in 35th position with a time of 2:23," Wardlaw says, on reflection.

It was a huge disappointment. Just the year before, running in the Fukuoka Marathon in Japan, Wardlaw finished the 42km course in 2:11:53, which was to become his personal best time.

"I gave myself a chance of winning a medal because of that time and the fact I was ranked 12th in the world then. I expected to do well but I didn't. I used to keep a diary, but there was no entry for those days in 1980. I must have been very disappointed."

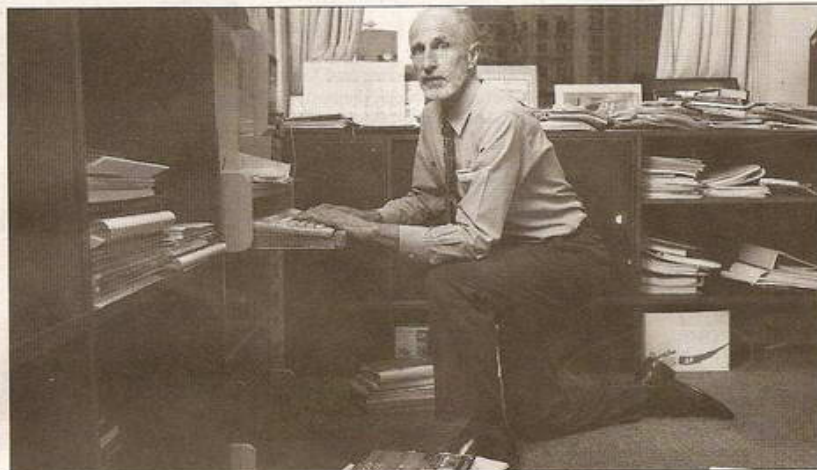
His tilt with the Olympic windmills had ended. He did not make it to Los Angeles four years later, but returned to the Olympic scene at Seoul 1988, as a coach with Steve Moneghetti, who finished fifth in the marathon.

"I have been to every Olympics since. In 1992, I once again went as Moneghetti's coach and then on the following occasion, as team coach of the Australian track and field squad," Wardlaw said. "In 2000, I was the head coach and then last time in Athens, I was coach of Australian athletes Kerryn McCann and Nick Harrison.

"I have many great memories. Watching Muhammad Ali light the flame in Atlanta in '96 was special. And then, of course, watching Cathy Freeman win gold in the 400 metres was pretty special too."

Wardlaw is ready for more memories and cannot wait for the Beijing Games to start. He already believes it will be a huge success.

"Beijing is quite a monumental city and the Olympics will be a monumental success. They will do a great job," he says. "It is hard to describe how wonderful an Olympic city is. I'm looking forward to Beijing and cheering on Liu Xiang."



Former Australian Olympic distance runner Chris Wardlaw, now a deputy secretary for education, in his office in Wan Chai. Above, Wardlaw (23) is pictured in a race in Japan in 1979 when he set his personal best. Photo: Oliver Tsang





# The three Marias

Russian newcomer Maria Sharapova is a gangly, giggly teenager. She is also a tennis prodigy with a dazzling future and a statuesque supermodel with the poise to match. So far she has coped well with her contrasting roles, but no one is safe from the media in the celebrity game, writes David Evans.

**T**here are three Maria Sharapovas in Hong Kong for the Watsons Water Champions Challenge 2005. There is the gangly teenager with age-associated skin blemishes who likes to eat cookies, shop with friends and lounge around the house doing nothing; there is the top-flight tennis player with a legion of fans, ranked number four in the world and with a Wimbledon title under her belt; and finally, there is the statuesque millionaire supermodel with long blonde hair and a svelte figure who is the darling of the celebrity gossip columns.

Sharapova is a rising sports star in the mould of teenage golfing sensation Michelle Wie, British soccer star Wayne Rooney and US Olympic swimming gold medalist Michael Phelps. They are young, rich, successful and have dazzling futures ahead of them.

Teenagers want to emulate them, adults admire them, brands want to sponsor them and the media will ultimately make or destroy them.

Who but the exceptional few have heard the roar of 70,000 adoring fans when scoring for their country, their national anthem when receiving a gold medal or the shouts and cheers after picking up a major title? And all at an age when they are still considered, in the eyes of the law at least, children.

**THE FIRST SHARAPOVA** is sitting in the players' lounge at the Victoria Park Tennis Stadium, where she will join seven other world-class female tennis players for this year's event.

She sits on the edge of her chair, her long legs crossed at the knee, a white Nike baseball cap pulled down low over her eyes. Her blonde ponytail trails out

the back. Dressed in blue, tight-fitting leggings and a loose red T-shirt, she pulls a small white towel protectively about her shoulders. It's the day before her first match and she has been practising on court and holding workshops.

Her mood swings from giggly schoolgirl when telling a story about friends, to serious young woman when discussing the finer points of her craft. A large dose of pouting teenager is occasionally dropped into the mix, but this could owe more to her gruelling schedule than petulance.

She is polite: "Excuse me"; friendly: "[Call me] Maria"; and unassuming: "I want to have as normal a life as I can."

Our meeting is very informal given Sharapova is a rising star in the world of tennis. The only other people in the chilly air-conditioned room besides the

photographer are a security guard and a representative of the event organiser. There is no controlling parent, no public relations flak and no product-endorsement flunkey trying to get brand names into every picture.

One wonders if Sharapova's wish for a normal life is born out of naivety because of her age, or the fact she is still teetering on the cusp of superstardom and has yet to topple headlong into the cesspit of tabloid media attention à la Boris Becker, Anna Kournikova and the Williams sisters.

For most of us, it is difficult to imagine how it feels to have every salacious detail of our lives on show to the public. For a 17-year-old it must be even more profound. She has so far escaped the intrusions suffered by many top stars, but that could only be a matter of time. She has already hinted at someone special in her life but that, for the moment at least, remains a closely guarded secret.

"We want to be known as athletes, but we cannot control which side of us the media is going to portray. One day they say this, one day they say that and, obviously, the public believe it because it's written down," she says.

"That's one thing that's very difficult because a lot of the stuff people write is not true. They read all this stuff but they don't know me as a person or a friend. They know me as a person on television or through interviews and that's the only way they know me and

they judge you by what they read in articles and see in interviews."

For some, Sharapova's life is a made-for-television movie illustrating the American dream: exceptional tennis skills of only daughter of poor Russian parents spotted by a former world champion; father cashes in meagre life savings and, leaving mother behind, travels with daughter to United States for training at prestigious tennis school; years later, family is happily reunited after major competition win and wait for the cash to come rolling in. Well, almost.

Having moved to the Black Sea resort town of Sochi from the western Siberian town of Nyagan (the move was prompted because of fears over the health risks posed by nearby Chernobyl), Sharapova's potential as a tennis champion was spotted by Martina Navratilova when she was just seven. At nine, with just US\$1,000 in their pockets, Sharapova and her father, Yuri, left for the US, where she enrolled in the prestigious Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Florida.

It's when you ask her about her life today, what she does to relax, who her friends are, that the heavy weight of expectation seems to lift from Sharapova's young shoulders and she becomes a normal teenager for a few short minutes.

"The best thing is just being at home or at my friend's house baking cookies. Well, I don't cook but I

like to eat them," she explains with unrestrained girlish enthusiasm.

"It's really funny because I remember one of my best friends in California – I've known her for about five years and she knows me so well – with so many things going on last year, before we could walk out on the streets and nobody knew me and all of a sudden this year, with everything going on [pauses for breath], whenever we're out with my friends, I don't think about people noticing me, I just do my own thing and all of a sudden when people look at you she's like, 'Why are they looking at us?' [giggles] and I'm like, 'Uhhhh...'"

**THE SECOND SHARAPOVA** is taking centre stage at an auction of signed tennis memorabilia for tsunami survivors on the court before the Saturday final. Earlier, she cut a solemn figure during a hastily arranged press conference, at which she announced her withdrawal from the tournament because of a stomach upset. She is already out of the singles competition, having been roundly beaten on the opening day of the competition by Russian rival and eventual title winner Elena Dementieva. Less than an hour later, she is laughing and pointing to raised hands in the crowd as the bids come thick and fast for a piece of tennis history.

Her position as the star of the tournament is »

assured when Ian Wade, managing director of main sponsor AS Watson Group, bids \$520,000 for her racquet and signed tennis strip. The figure is a full \$120,000 above what was bid for Venus Williams' kit. As she leaves the court for the last time, she spins on her heels and waves to ebullient fans; she is clearly a favourite and enjoying every moment.

Sharapova already has an impressive US\$2.75 million in prize money in the bank, but the real bucks will come from sponsorship deals.

She currently has only a handful of endorsement deals, including Nike, racquet-maker Prince (a five-year deal reportedly worth US\$750,000); NEC computers, for which she appears in a Japanese commercial; and Speedminton, a combination of tennis, badminton and racquetball.

Unlike blonde compatriot Kournikova, who swapped sport appeal for sex appeal, Sharapova seems

**“AS A RUSSIAN FAMILY WE WERE CONSIDERED NORMAL. OBVIOUSLY IN AMERICA IT WAS A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT. IF YOU COME WITH US\$1,000 TO AMERICA IT'S CONSIDERED NOTHING”**

content to eschew the millions from mainstream advertising to concentrate on her tennis. “I think from a point of view where I didn't have much money when I started playing tennis compared with what I earn now, I don't really care,” she says.

One person who does care, and cares passionately, is her father. Yuri Sharapov has been attacked in the press for being the overbearing parent after Russia's Anastasia Myskina said she would stop playing for her country if Sharapova was invited to play this year. He is said to be rude to the other Russian players and has already been admonished by match officials at various events for coaching his daughter from the sidelines.

When a Sharapova serve at this year's Watsons Water Challenge was disrupted by a child with Down's syndrome throwing a tennis ball onto the court, someone from the players' bench was heard to shout, “You moron”. It is unclear who made the comment. Sharapova insists her parents have only her best interests at heart.

“Obviously, they've always wanted me to be the best

and be good at what I do, but most importantly they just wanted me to be happy and healthy. Those are the two main things they wanted and I'm happy and healthy,” she explains.

Despite the rigours of a gruelling training regime, Sharapova has still found time to study. She is mature enough to understand that in the world of top-flight tennis, you are only as good as your last victory. And in the world of sport, your downfall can occur at an age when many of us are still contemplating our first career.

“I don't just want to be a good tennis player, I want to be a person who is known to be appreciative and educated and I think that's important for any individual, whether they are a sports person or not. It's very important to be able to go to an interview and know how to put two words together.

“It's tough, I've learned a lot about myself through situations I've been in and I'm more mature and I think I can do it. But it's still very hard and I do still ask my mum's opinion about some things.”

**THE THIRD SHARAPOVA** is eagerly awaited at the Mandarin Hotel's Vong Restaurant and Bar at 7pm on Tuesday, the day before the opening game. The room is a buzzing throng of businesspeople, reporters, public relations executives, ladies who lunch and a select few of their well-heeled offspring.

The wine is flowing and the buffet table is under attack. Tonight, the players are being welcomed to Hong Kong with a cocktail reception. To the right of a small stage at the back of the five-star restaurant is a velvet roped-off area. The cards on the high tables reveal the names of the lucky sponsors who will have their five minutes of making small talk and rubbing shoulders with the glamorous tennis stars of tomorrow.

Among the first to arrive are Svetlana Kuznetsova, Nicole Vaidisova and Dementieva, looking chic in their tailor-made cheongsams. A couple of photographers snap the girls as they obligingly smile for the cameras. They nod animatedly as they engage in conversation with their chosen suitor for the evening. It's hard to imagine what a 15-year-old girl from the Czech Republic could have in common with a middle-aged business executive. Several minutes later the blank stares and uncomfortable silences reveal the answer – very little.

Arriving suitably late (fashionably late goes to Venus Williams) is Sharapova, the stunning fashion model, in a gold silk sleeveless dress of modest just-

above-the-knee length. Her walk from the bar to her table takes just long enough to alert everyone to her presence and she is quickly surrounded by the paparazzi horde as she seats herself on a high stool. A true professional, she tilts her head ever so slightly so she has to look up from under her long eyelashes; she obliges the photographers by turning her head from left to right so each can have their shot. She, too, laughs at her consorts' comments before lapsing into blank-faced silence.

"Even as a woman I find her very attractive," says Christine Choy, who runs a women's medical clinic and says she is attending the cocktail party just to catch a glimpse of Sharapova. Choy describes her idol as the embodiment of healthy, successful young womanhood. When it is pointed out the Williams sisters represent healthy, incredibly successful young womanhood, Choy has trouble finding the words to explain why she does not feel the same about them.

Rinat Perlman, a marketing manager with the International Diamond Exchange, has no such difficulty. "As women, I prefer the Williams sisters because they are much more famous," she explains, before adding: "At the moment."

Despite their fame and fortune, it is clear the girls are, for tonight at least, fashion accessories of the corporate sponsors as the event begins to resemble an unruly wedding reception.

A gift presentation becomes a long, tedious affair as a succession of executives, their associates, government officials, make-up artists, tailors and organisers are sought out from among the milling crowd to be photographed with the players.

Between ever briefer flashes of pearly white teeth, Sharapova's bored indifference is becoming obvious. She signals up, then down to her father as he waits in the crowd, a glass of wine in his hand. I'm fed up? I want to go down to the room? Her widest smile of the evening is reserved for a dark-haired young man in an off-white jumper who appears at the back of the room. Her new beau? She's not saying.

For now, Sharapova's place in history is set for a fairy-tale ending. She has won a major title and her earning potential has been put as high as US\$100 million. But can she last the distance and, starting from such a young age, how long will it be before the promotional and media grind begins to take its toll?

"I'm not bored. I just came in from Thailand, so I'm a bit tired. There was a lot to do over there. I was riding elephants. I mean, who rides elephants? I was like, whoa, elephants. It was scary, but I'm OK." ■



Appendix B-1- Cuba

### Cuba in crisis after a string of defections deplete talented squad

All eyes will be on Cuba to see how the island nation has recovered from a spate of defections.

Boxing is a national sport in Cuba and the Caribbeans have won 32 of their 65 Olympic gold medals in the sport.

But Cuban boxing has been plundered of five of its best talents over the past couple of years as fighters escaped their country to seek riches in the lucrative professional ranks - something denied them by the strict communist regime at home.

Former dictator Fidel Castro (pictured below) banned fighters from turning professional, believing they should serve their country by winning medals that glorify the nation, rather than chasing their own fortune in the pro ranks.

Castro's favourite sportsman of all time was the three-time Olympic heavyweight champion Felix Savon, who retired after winning gold in Sydney in 2000.

Cuba had a ready-made replacement in Odlanier Solis, who had a 2-1 winning record over Savon in domestic competition and went on to claim the heavyweight title in Athens in 2004. He also won three world titles: two at heavyweight in 2001 and 2003 and the last at super-heavyweight in 2005.

But in December 2006, while training in Venezuela ahead of the 2007 Pan-American Games in Rio de Janeiro (he had won heavyweight gold at the previous two editions in 1999 and 2003), Solis and fellow reigning Olympic gold medallists Van Barteley (light-flyweight) and Yuriorkis Gamboa (flyweight) all went missing.

They turned up later in Miami and signed professional contracts with Germany-based Arena Box Promotions.

If that wasn't bad enough, six months later double Olympic and twice world champion bantamweight Guillermo Rigondeaux and 2005 world champion welterweight Erislandy Lara both went on the run after the Pan-American Games.

They were both picked up by Brazilian police and deported back to Cuba but were subsequently kicked off the boxing team. Lara managed to flee again in a speed boat to Mexico and then turned up in Hamburg, Germany, to sign with Arena.

The spate of defections, and the loss of their five best boxers, saw Castro withdraw the team from the 2007 world championships in Chicago, probably fearing even more defections - a wise move perhaps given that a year later Cuba lost its women's light-heavyweight world judo champion, Yurisel Laborde, during the Pan-American championships in Miami.

The upshot is that Cuba are without all five of their gold medallists from Athens - the fifth, lightweight Mario Kindelan has retired - and have not competed at the world championships since 2005.

Their best hope should thus be Kindelan's successor, the 21-year-old Yordenis Ugas, who claimed gold at the 2005 world championships.

In Beijing, attention will probably be mostly focused on the heavyweight and super-heavyweight divisions, as those have produced many future professional world champions in recent years. Cuba's strongest challenges will come from Russia and the US, although Italy and even Britain could spring a few surprises.

Italy have the heavyweight and super-heavyweight world champions in Clemente Russo and Roberto Cammarelle respectively.

Cammarelle has only ever lost to Russians in major international competitions, chief among them Alexander Povetkin - soon to challenge Wladimir Klitschko for the International Boxing Federation heavyweight title.

The super-heavyweight favourite, though, is Russian European champion Islam Timurziev, who beat Cammarelle on the way to winning that crown in 2006 but pulled out of the pair's world championships semi-final a year later with injury. At heavyweight, US giant Deontay Wilder - who stands at 2.01m and is relatively inexperienced - could provide a surprise as he holds a victory over Russian favourite Rakhim Chakhkeiv - who surprisingly lost a close final to Russo in Chicago.

Another name to look out for in the lightweight division is British world champion Frankie Gavin, while the mainland will be hoping their light-flyweight world champion, Zou Shiming, can repeat his victorious feat on home soil.



Agence France-Presse

**In the third in our series on how the capital is preparing for the Games, Kristine Kwok looks at how tough travel restrictions are hurting both foreign businessmen and ordinary people**

As the Forbidden City oozed magnificence under a freshly painted facade, a stone's throw away, grocery store owner Ms Hou was busy making phone calls to make sure her tiny shop was well stocked.

Not that business has been good leading up to the climax of the Olympic hype.

Authorities had declared that these Games would be a party for everyone and a "people's Olympics", but the government's all-out efforts to put on a good show have brought a measure of inconvenience to Ms Hou and many other residents.

"It's very hard to find suppliers with enough stock because the government has banned vehicles from other provinces from coming into Beijing. I don't know if we can keep the door open by the end of the Olympics," she said, refusing to be identified by her full name, a common request by people asked to comment for the media.

As preparations for the Games reach a fever pitch, Beijing has been rolling out scores of restrictions to boost the city's image and security, with many caught unprepared.

To ease traffic and cut pollution, vehicles from other provinces cannot enter Beijing without permits until September 20. Those emitting heavy pollutants are not allowed in downtown areas. Later this month, cars in Beijing will be subject to an odd-even rule, which means – depending on the last digit of their number plates – they may drive only on alternate days.

The traffic ban has forced many shops and companies to stock up in advance. But for people with fewer resources, such as Ms Hou, supply shortages have pushed up costs and left many on the verge of closing their businesses during the Games.

People in Beijing are seeing prices of daily necessities rise beyond the rate of inflation, which was 7.7 per

## Is Beijing ready?



cent in May. But Ms Hou dared not raise her prices.

"If I raise the prices, people will stop coming," she said. "To make things worse, there aren't enough tourists these days."

There are half the number of tourists streaming into the Forbidden City and the neighbouring alleyways, according to some estimates. Ms Hou said her sales have been down by about 5,000 yuan since June 1.

The lower-than-expected tourist figures are the result of stricter visa regulations on foreigners, measures to cut the number of mainlanders entering Beijing, and the high cost of travelling to and staying in the city.

"Each shop here is also supposed

## In other countries, the Olympics is a sporting event, but in China, it's a political mission

Zhou Xiaozheng,  
Renmin University sociologist

to send someone to patrol this area and report any suspicious people to the authorities," Ms Hou said, pointing to a red armband pinned on her husband's sleeve.

Of all the issues, security is perhaps the biggest thorn in the city's side.

Amid a police crackdown on the migrant population, which is far larger than that of Beijingers, non-Beijing mainland residents have been scrambling to get their temporary resident's permits, and foreigners to get their visas.

The visa restrictions have prompted a flood of complaints, with many foreigners having to return to their home countries, or other places like Hong Kong, to obtain new ones.

Bearing the brunt are those on business visas – called F-visas – which in theory are granted to foreigners invited for business or research. But over the years, many without work or study visas were able to obtain F-visas through travel agents.

But since March 1, at least three restrictions have been introduced, according to visa consultant Marcy Shen Lijun (沈麗君). Dual nationality holders have had to relinquish one of their nationalities; F-visa applicants have had to show at least US\$3,000 in a mainland bank account to prove they can support themselves in the country; and employees of small companies have had to return to their home countries to apply for their work visas.

The longer processing period and the complexity of documents required are making many foreigners give up and leave altogether.

One Shanghai-based American businessman, who refused to be named, said he had stopped applying for visas for his guests until the restrictions were eased.

"China is just reinforcing the regulations that were poorly executed before, which is fine," he said. "But now there is a huge lack of transparency. The government should write down the regulations clearly."

And just as migrant workers are being kept out, members of ethnic minorities, such as Xinjiang (新疆) businessmen Happyrat Baterbek, feel that they are being driven out.

Mr Baterbek said his decision to leave Beijing, where he has lived for seven years, was due to "indirect pressure" from the government.

"And now nobody is willing to rent their apartment to someone like me," he said.

Even some Beijing residents don't want to stay for the Games. Zhou Xiaozheng (周孝正), a sociologist at Renmin University, is planning an escape with his friends.

"In other countries, the Olympics is a sporting event, but in China, it's a political mission," he said.

"As the government exhausts all means to make sure it will be safe and smooth, people's interests are no longer important."

Price increases at five-star hotels

160%

Price increases at four-star hotels

260%

Price increases at three-star hotels

320%

SOURCE: BEIJING TOURISM BUREAU

# On Eve of Asian Cup Final, Iraq Is the Proud Underdog



Roslan Rahman/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Iraq's coaches briefed the national soccer team Saturday at practice in Jakarta, Indonesia, for the Asian Cup.

By PETER GELLING

Published: July 29, 2007

JAKARTA, Indonesia, July 28 — In the Asian Cup final against Saudi Arabia on Sunday, Iraq is the underdog in every way imaginable.

## The Goal Blog



Live updates on the Asian Cup final between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, followed by postgame reaction from Iraq on the Goal Blog.

[Go to Goal »](#)

Also on The Goal Blog, [The Neverending Story, Again: Can Soccer Save Iraq?](#)

Saudi Arabia, which has appeared in five of the last six finals, is a three-time champion. Iraq has never been to the finals and last played in the semifinals 31 years ago.

But that is only the beginning of the uphill fight for Iraq's young, beleaguered players.

When the Iraqi national soccer team left Malaysia for the finals here, they were delayed three hours in the Kuala Lumpur airport before collapsing into their cramped, economy-class seats.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's team strolled onto its stylish, private jet, accompanied by media representatives, interpreters, doctors and coaches, and was whisked here.

This has been the story for the Iraqis the entire tournament. The underfinanced team has been plagued by endless complications with travel, accommodations, food, training and equipment.

"From A to Z, everything has been a problem from the very beginning," said Jorvan Vieira, the head coach from Brazil who brushed aside death threats to take his short-term job with Iraq.

For starters, Iraq lost an early preliminary match against South Korea, 3-0, after traveling 36 hours to get to the game. And then, an already exhausted Younes Mahmoud, the team's captain, was detained for 12 hours in Bangkok, awaiting permission to enter the country on the eve of Iraq's first tournament game against Thailand.

Upon arriving in Kuala Lumpur for the semifinal match against South Korea, the players found their hotel rooms occupied by the Iranian team, which had already been eliminated. The Iraqis waited for hours in the lobby for rooms, delaying their scheduled practice — and sleep.

Saudi Arabia, on the other side, with more than double the budget of Iraq and players who have been promised lavish gifts if they win, has had virtually no logistical problems.

The "Lions of the Two Rivers," as the Iraqi team is known back home, are no strangers to adversity. The war plays heavily on their minds and has taken at least one family member from every player on the team, some very recently.

Noor Sabri, Iraq's goalie-turned-national hero whose save helped the team defeat South Korea in penalty kicks to reach the final, lost his brother-in-law in a bombing four days before the team arrived in Bangkok for the start of the tournament.

"We are all suffering, but we are also surviving," said Mr. Mahmoud, the captain. "We try to concentrate only on the matches because it is the only way to bring happiness to the Iraqi people."

The team brought joy to Iraqis by simply making it to the quarterfinals, which was their modest goal in the beginning. After defeating Vietnam, 2-0, in the quarterfinals, spirits began to rise. And after the victory over South Korea, the world watched as the players cried, wrapped in Iraqi flags, on the Malaysian field.

The Asian Cup, held every four years, is taking place a year early because of the logistical jam created by the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the European soccer championship. The next Asian Cup is set for 2011.

On a balmy night here on Friday, the team showed no signs of the stress of home or the pressure of the tournament.

Mr. Vieira, the head coach, says the same thing to the team every day for motivation.

“Play for the Iraqi people,” he said on Friday night. “Play to put a smile on their lips.”

Haider Abdul Amir, a defender, says he is playing for his family.

“I talk to my family every day,” he said. “They are so excited, so happy. It’s a wonderful thing.”

His family lives in Baghdad and, like his fellow teammates, he was troubled by the bombings that killed more than 50 people there during the victory celebrations this week.

Despite all of this, the Iraqi players have remained positive. Shy smiles splashed across their faces as they met the horde of journalists after Friday’s practice. The teammates then boarded a bus back to the hotel, their exhaustion revealed as the bus lurched through Jakarta.

In the back of the bus, a friendly discussion quickly turned into a rollicking debate. The team argued about the Koran and about where one goes after dying. Sunnis and Shiites participated in the debate, and it lasted all the way to the hotel, illustrating another hurdle for this team, which also includes Kurds.

Mr. Amir smiled at the arguments, at times shouting his own opinion.

“I am a Shiite; he is a Sunni; and we are best of friends,” he said referring to Mahdi Karim, a midfielder who smiled broadly. He added: “We play for Iraq. We are all family on this bus.”

Helio Anjos, the Saudi Arabian head coach, said that he was well aware of the strength of the Iraqis.

“For tomorrow, Iraq will be a very, very tough opponent,” he said. “They are playing with a lot of emotion and a lot of motivation.”

## **Proud finish sends Iraq flying**

(FIFA.com) Wednesday 22 August 2007

With Iraq's fairy tale AFC Asian Cup 2007 conquest still fresh on the lips of football fans the world over, it is no surprise that they have been rewarded by a 16-place shoot up to 64th on the latest FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking. The milestone achievement further cemented Iraq's status as one of Asia's top footballing nations, and they have duly outstripped Oman and China to rank seventh in continental terms.

Led by Brazilian coach Jorvan Vieira, a solitary Younis Mahmoud goal was enough for Iraq to overcome Saudi Arabia in the Asian Cup final and get their hands on the trophy for the first time. Moreover, by reigning supreme the team put smiles on the faces of their suffering compatriots back home.

It also sent out a strong message to the world, as tournament MVP Mahmoud told FIFA.com. "Despite the political turmoil, they are still optimistic people". The tournament's four-goal joint top scorer went on to admit that it was such a belief in themselves that carried the team through.

His views were echoed by Iraq Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who said the team's success was a tremendous boost for the people. "Our Lions of The Two Rivers have taught the world an important lesson," he said. "Through determination and tenacity they snatched victory. They could make it as long as they decided to win."

### **Prodigies come of age**

The team's rebuilding process can be traced back to the previous edition of the Asian Cup three years ago, when Iraq fielded an U-23 side that stormed into the quarter-finals. Then, at the Men's Olympic Football Tournament Athens 2004, this same side reached the last four.

Having gained precious international experience through these campaigns, thirteen players went on the form part of Iraq's Asian Cup squad in July. Mahmoud had been scoring consistently for both club and country and Nashat Akram developed into a high-quality midfielder around whom the team rotated, while Noor Sabri Abbas proved solid between the posts.

With little time given to prepare themselves under a new coach, Iraq made a slow start, drawing 1-1 with co-hosts Thailand in the tournament curtain-raiser. But in their second outing they pulled off an upset, beating hotly-tipped Australia 3-1 with Nashat Akram and Hawar Mohammed on target, before Karrar Jassim sealed a memorable victory.

A goalless draw against Oman set up a quarter-final meeting against Vietnam, where Vieira's charges ran out 2-0 winners. With a place in the final at stake, the unfancied Iraqis battled bravely to hold

two-time Asian champions Korea Republic to a goalless draw over 120 minutes and force a penalty shootout, which the Gulf side won.

In the concluding match against Saudi Arabia, Vieira's men created the majority of the chances and Mahmoud's header proved enough to crown Iraq as continental champions.

If Iraq's proud finish in the Asian Cup is anything to go by, it seems that they are set to confirm their tag as an emerging power in the qualifying campaign for the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™. They will play home-and-away games against Pakistan in the opening knockout round, and while a place in the second round should be within Iraq's grasp, they have set themselves the target of booking a place on the biggest stage of all for the first time since 1986.

"Encouraged by the tremendous success, we can make it to the finals on the world stage as long as we stick to our performances in the Asian Cup," added Mahmoud.

## **Mahmoud inspires Iraqi ecstasy**

(FIFA.com) Monday 30 July 2007

Iraq ended the era of the 'big four' on the continental stage by defeating Saudi Arabia 1-0 in Jakarta on Sunday to win the 14th edition of the AFC Asian Cup. The tournament had been dominated by Korea Republic, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Japan since its inception in 1956, but it was the Iraqi skipper Younis Mahmoud who headed home the only goal of the game to mark a new beginning for the West Asians.

The Al Gharafa striker, who also scored the winner in a 2-1 victory over the Saudis three years ago in the group stage, renewed his acquaintance with the three-time Asian champions and sealed yet another memorable win with a pinpoint header off a Hawar Mohammed corner in the 71st minute.

No one could have anticipated this outcome when the Iraqis, who began their campaign as underdogs in Group A, snatched a 1-1 draw with co-hosts Thailand in their opener courtesy of Mahmoud's equaliser. But Iraq stunned the watching world by beating favourites Australia 3-1 and then securing top spot in the pool thanks to a scoreless draw with Oman. Thereafter, Mahmoud scored both goals in a 2-0 reverse of Vietnam in the last eight, before Iraq eliminated Korea Republic on penalties after their semi-final had ended scoreless on Wednesday.

With everyday violence ongoing in their war-torn homeland, the achievement was all the more precious for the Iraqis, who saw more than 50 of their compatriots killed by car bombs while celebrating their side's penalty shootout win over the Koreans. Their Brazilian coach Jorvan Vieira was quick to praise his players for overcoming this harsh reality. "The players are fantastic and you have to understand the difficulties," the 54-year-old said. "They have had this situation for the past years and they have fantastic power inside themselves."

Consequently voted Player of the Tournament, Mahmoud stood on the podium to receive the coveted trophy from AFC President Mohamed Bin Hammam and FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter, as the Iraqi players celebrated winning the continental title for the first time and clinching a place at the FIFA Confederations Cup South Africa 2009.

### **Trio qualify for Qatar**

On Saturday, Korea Republic claimed the bronze medal after defeating neighbours Japan 6-5 in their third consecutive penalty shootout of the tournament. The Koreans had eliminated their old nemesis Iran in the quarter-finals, before losing to eventual winners Iraq on penalties in their semi-final.

Having failed to score for 240 minutes in their two previous games, the Taeguk Warriors had to endure another two goalless hours and they were even down to ten men after defender Kang Min-Soo was given his second yellow card in the 56th minute. The referee also ordered coach Pim Verbeek, his



assistant Hong Myung-Bo, and goalkeeping coach Cossa, who protested against the decision, to leave the bench.

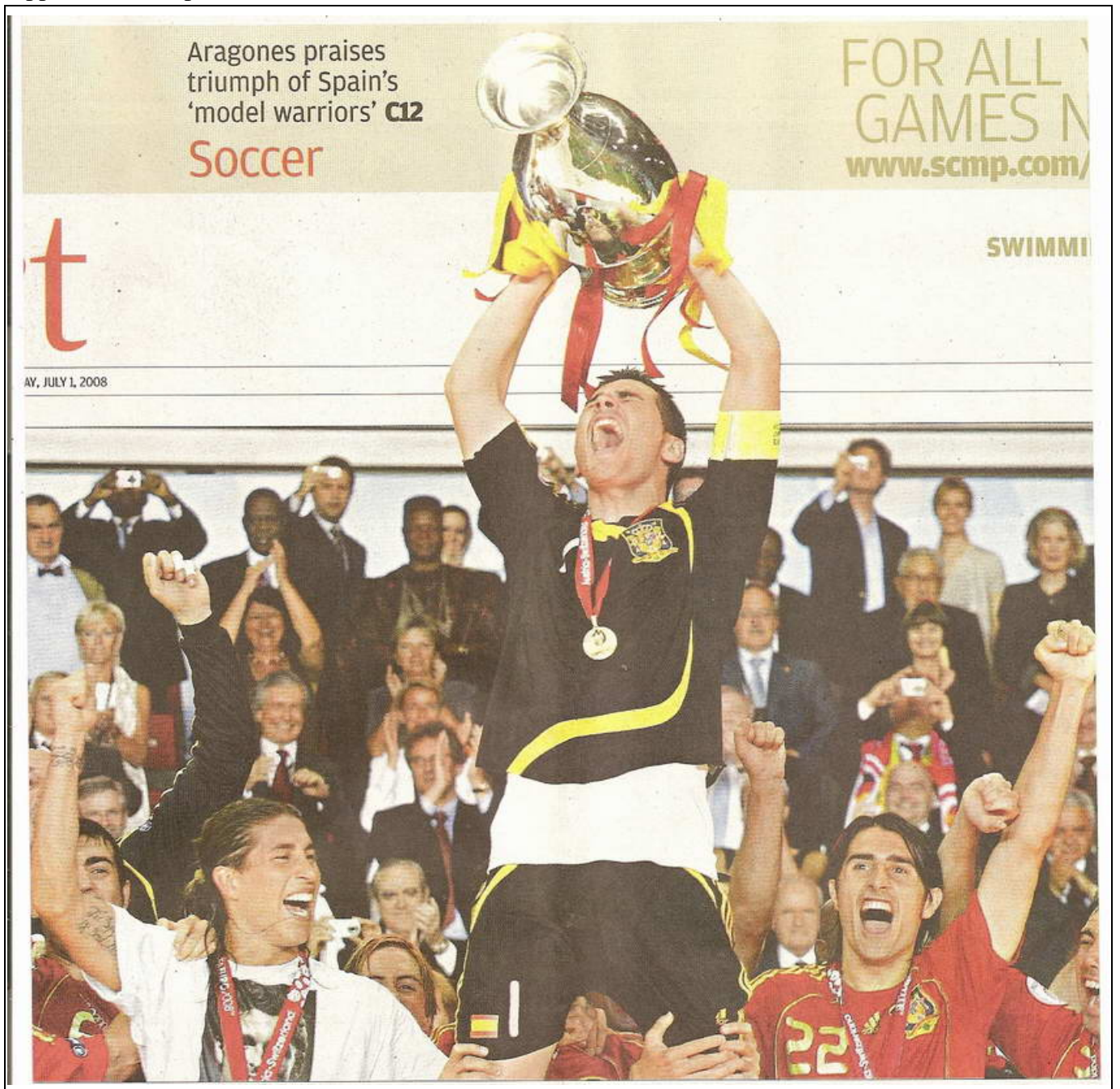
Despite the result it was Verbeek's swansong at the Korean controls, the Dutchman announcing his resignation after the game. "It's time for a new challenge," the 51-year-old said. "Before the tournament we had a target to win the Asian Cup, but the situation was really bad for us. Although we had a good defence, we didn't score enough goals in order to win."

However, Korea Republic did return home with a considerable reward: qualification to the Asian Cup 2011. Iraq and Saudi Arabia have also been assured of places in Qatar following the AFC's decision to grant the top three teams in this year's competition automatic byes to the finals in four years time.

## **Final**

*Sunday, 29 July*

Iraq 1-0 Saudi Arabia





西班牙奪得歐洲國家盃冠軍後，球迷聚集在馬德里的科隆廣場慶祝。

(美聯社)



西班牙射入奠定勝局的一球後，隊員互相歡呼擁抱。

(路透社)

### 西班牙三大地方主義勢力

#### 加利西亞(Calicia)

人口：不到300萬  
首府：聖地牙哥  
語言：加利西亞語、西班牙  
社會狀況：居民與葡萄牙淵源深，  
被嘲「粗野的漁民」

#### 巴斯克(Basque)

人口：220萬  
首府：維多利亞  
語言：巴斯克語、西班牙語  
社會狀況：分離主義盛行，  
常以恐怖襲擊手段爭取獨立



#### 加泰隆尼亞(Catalonia)

人口：720萬  
首府：巴塞隆那  
語言：加泰隆尼亞語、  
西班牙語  
社會狀況：經濟富庶、政治  
獨立，但加泰隆  
尼亞人被指傲慢  
無禮

# 歐國盃踢走分離主義

## 西班牙人團結狂歡

西班牙國家足球隊奪得今屆歐洲國家盃冠軍，打破44年未獲國際大賽冠軍的夢魘，亦令各地民衆拋開分離主義等政治分歧，團結慶祝狂歡。國王卡洛斯（Juan Carlos）高呼這是全西班牙人的勝利，首相薩帕特羅（Jose Zapatero）直指歐國盃「加強了國家團結」。有分析認為，足球能增加國民凝聚力，成為西班牙對抗分離主義的有力工具。【相關新聞刊A32】

西班牙以1比0擊敗德國後，國內多座城市的民衆通宵盡情慶祝。在首都馬德里，數萬民衆湧上街頭，高呼「西班牙萬歲」。西班牙國王卡洛斯與王后索菲亞、首相薩帕特羅一起在比賽現場見證了國家隊的勝利。他說：「這是我們西班牙人慶祝的時刻，因為這是屬於我們所有人的勝利！」

西班牙是歐洲分離主義最盛行的國家，國民深受其害。北部巴斯克地區（Basque）的分離組織更不時以暴力手段爭取獨立。西班牙雖是歐洲足球強國，但國家隊在各大國際賽事中卻長期未能獲得佳績，有不少輿論認為，這是由於不同地域的球員與民衆各自為政，缺乏凝聚力所致。

西班牙在本屆歐國盃小組賽過關斬將時，民衆對國家隊的擁戴仍未獲太大注視，但當它打破大賽八強出局的宿命後，民衆的熱情亦隨之沸騰。收視數據顯示，周日的決賽成為歷來最多西班牙人觀看的足球比賽直播。

### 全民沸騰 決賽收視破紀錄

47歲的托尼一向以身為東北部加泰隆尼亞（Catalonia）人自豪，但決賽夜他卻全情投入



西班牙國王卡洛斯與王后周日到維也納觀賽，在西班牙勝出後，卡洛斯擁抱門將卡斯卡斯。

（美聯社）

支持國家隊。他說：「若是有加泰隆尼亞隊，我會支持他們。但我討厭所有民族主義者。」我對加泰隆尼亞文化感到自豪，但這是團結整個國家的機會。」

### 「地方主義號召力到達極限」

有分析家相信，民衆對國家隊的擁戴顯示地方主義的號召力已到極限，宣揚民族主義的政治領袖正和民衆的思想脫節。西班牙《世界報》記者安森說，近年每逢西班牙隊有重要比賽時，巴斯克與加泰隆尼亞地區的電視收視率最高。政治分析員馬西森相信，足球能令西班牙更團結。

目前，西班牙經濟放緩及失業率上升，有專家指這次勝利猶如為整個國家打了一支強心針，為國民挽回自信。巴斯克部分政黨亦罕有對國家隊勝出表示祝賀，此舉可謂意義非凡。但一些死硬分離分子並未受到國家隊成就鼓舞，持分離主義立場的加泰隆尼亞ERC黨發言人在賽前表示，該黨部分領袖希望德國勝出。由此可見，歐國盃雖讓西班牙人感受足球的凝聚力，但如何長久維繫這一熱情，仍是一項重大政治挑戰。綜合報道

## 兩大勢力 助增國家認同

西班牙國家隊成為歐洲足壇霸主，馬德里出生的教練阿拉干尼斯，與由加隆尼亞人組成的中場線居功至偉。兩者既是西班牙足球勢力的縮影，也是其政治力量的縮影。輿論一致認同西班牙的成功秘訣是團結，上述這一組合，無疑起了催化作用。

西班牙人重視地方身分，令中央政府極為頭痛。加泰隆尼亞便是地方主義一大主要勢力。該區自1980年代以來，長期由民族主義者治理。當地公立學校學生都要學加泰隆尼亞語，西班牙語每周最多只有3小時課程。

足球也成為分離主義者展示政見的工具。來自加泰隆尼亞的強隊巴塞羅那上季出戰歐冠盃時，有球迷在場上展示「加泰隆尼亞不是西班牙」標語。但這次歐國盃，巴塞羅那人卻爭相湧上街頭，慶祝國家隊勝利。分析指，西班牙陣中多名巴塞球員表現出色，以及來自加泰隆尼亞的21歲小將法比加斯在對俄羅斯的準決賽表現神勇，令當地人增加對國家隊的認同感。綜合報道

# Beijing 2008



Rubbish collectors have been asked to return to their home provinces until after the Olympics as part of a bid to present a sanitised Games. Photo: Reuters

## Rubbish collectors sent packing

### Reuters in Beijing

Liu Yang is among tens of thousands of migrant workers who scour Beijing bins for sellable scraps. But he will not be recycling any refuse this August as the city's rubbish collectors are being pushed out of town.

A relentless campaign by Beijing to present a sanitised, modern city to millions of Olympic Games visitors has led to a government shutdown of scores of refuse recycling centres that provide these migrant workers with an income.

As the Games approach, the number of rubbish collectors has visibly dropped across the capital, including at Qianbajia, a recycling station where about 200 households live

among towering piles of plastic, building materials and scrap metals.

Almost half of the tenants have left for their home provinces. Mr Liu and his young family are still hoping to stay in the dank room next to reeking piles of waste where they have made a home. "The rent is cheap here," Mr Liu said, picking up his one-year-old daughter as a three-wheeled cart loaded with cardboard squeezed by in the muddy alley outside his house.

Qianbajia is among the dozens of urban recycling stations being shut down for the Games, effectively cutting off the livelihoods of tens of thousands of temporary workers who eke out a living from the city's cast-offs.

Most of the city's more than 170,000 rubbish collectors will have

left before the August 8 opening ceremony – a necessary measure to guarantee the health and safety of Games visitors, according to Wang Weiping, a Beijing government adviser.

Mr Wang, a leading expert on the city's recycling industry, submitted a report recommending officials "convince" the collectors to return to their home provinces for the duration of the Olympics.

The workers processed up to a third of Beijing's rubbish and had a "positive effect" on society, but most had criminal records, left second-hand environmental pollution and posed a health threat, Mr Wang said.

Scrap traders and recyclers, faced with a diminishing pool of rubbish collectors to do business with, grum-

ble of lost profits and fear that their suppliers may not come back after the Games.

"How can you sell, if you've got nothing to buy?" said Wang Yuping, a small scrap trader near one of Beijing's Olympic soccer venues.

"There's no talk of compensation. We're just common people. What good would complaining do?"

Back in Qianbajia, Mr Liu said his wife would return from her family's farm in about two months and rejoin him in the city. He was neither angry nor disappointed with the authorities, who have dubbed the Games the "People's Olympics".

"It would be nice if she could be here during the Games ... but what can I say? We're just used to it."



# Games on the brink of war



AN IMAGE FROM A NAZI DOCUMENTARY ON THE 1936 OLYMPIC GAMES IN BERLIN, DIRECTED BY LENI RIEFENSTAHL. THE NAZIS USED THE OLYMPICS TO PROMOTE THEIR POLITICAL IDEAS. PHOTOS: COURTESY

## The Nazis and the Olympics

The 1936 Berlin Olympics was the perfect opportunity for Adolf Hitler to show the world how powerful Nazi politics were. By allowing only selected races to compete in the Games, the leaders of the Nazi Party could demonstrate their power to all the nations that wanted to compete.

Politicians in other countries wondered whether the Berlin Games should go ahead under the control of the Nazis. The United States considered boycotting the Olympics, and even though the IOC insisted that politics should never be a part of the Games, people outside Germany realised what was going to happen in Berlin in 1936. Hitler seemed to have the upper hand. Three years after the 1936 Berlin Games, he plunged the world into the worst war that mankind had ever seen.

# Berlin, Germany, 1936

In 1936, Berlin was a city of power and confidence. Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party had gained a tight grip on German politics and Berlin was the centrepiece city of the new and flourishing Germany. Hitler believed that the

Germans were superior to all other races and he wanted to clean his country of all communities who he thought weakened Germany. Hitler hated the Jews and was determined to eliminate them in any way he could.

Berlin had been awarded the 1936 Olympics before the Nazi Party came to power. And there was nothing the International Olympic Committee could do to stop the Nazis using the Olympics to promote their political ideas.

- Questions**
- 1 A "centrepiece" is .....
    - a) the most important thing in a group
    - b) an object that is round in shape
  - 2 the verb "to eliminate" means .....
    - a) to get rid of something completely
    - b) to strengthen something

- Questions**
- 3 A "race" is .....
    - a) a very large group of people with the same cultural and physical characteristics
    - b) a group of people who live in the Southern hemisphere
  - 4 "To go ahead" means .....
    - a) to stop immediately
    - b) to continue as planned

## Olympic Fact File

Decide which six statements below are TRUE and copy them into your Olympic Fact File.

- 1 The 1936 Olympic Games were held in Paris.
- 2 Adolf Hitler (right) wanted to use the Berlin Games as propaganda for his political ideas.
- 3 A famous movie called *Olympia* was made about the 1936 Games.
- 4 The US and other nations thought about boycotting the 1936 Games.
- 5 The Olympic torch relay was introduced at the Berlin Games.
- 6 The record for the youngest-ever medal winner was set at the 1936 Olympics.
- 7 There was a 12-year break in the Olympics between 1936 and 1948 because of the second world war.
- 8 The German government spent very little money on the 1936 Berlin Games.



## The XI Olympiad

The organisers of the 1936 Berlin Olympics spent US\$30 million on staging the Games.

Twenty-five costly screens were set up, allowing Berliners to see the competitions for free.

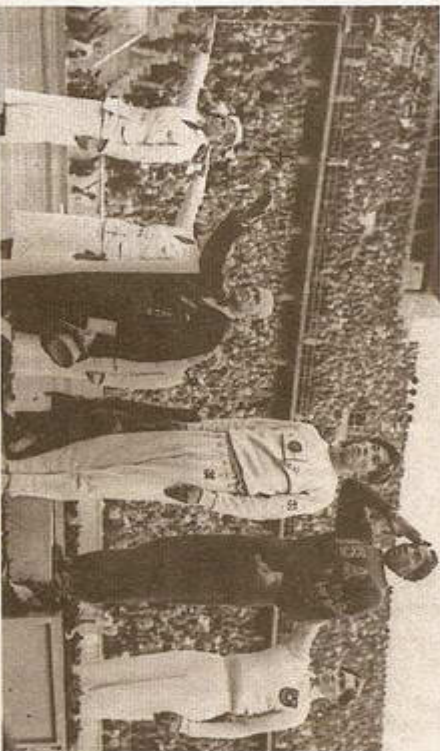
Leit Riefenstahl, a talented filmmaker, was employed to make a film of the action, and her movie, *Olympia*, turned out to be a masterpiece.

The now-famous torch relay of the Olympic Games was included in the opening ceremony for the first time.

A 13-year-old American girl diver became the youngest athlete to win Olympic gold. Her record still stands. A 12-year-old Danish girl became the youngest-ever medal winner, earning a bronze in the 200-metre breaststroke.

For hundreds of athletes the 1936 Berlin Games was a great success, but then the darkness of war put out the Olympic Flame for 12 years - until it was lit again in 1948.

- Questions**
- 5 "A masterpiece" is an artist's .....
    - a) best work
    - b) last work
  - 6 "To stage something" means .....
    - a) to make a film of something
    - b) to organise an event



JESSE OWENS OF THE US (SECOND FROM RIGHT) WON FOUR GOLD MEDALS IN BERLIN. PHOTO: AP



## Protesters are dogging the torch relay from city to city. With more trouble to come people are divided on whether sports and politics should mix

**T**he 2008 Beijing Olympics is shaping up to be the biggest public relations challenge the central government has ever faced as slogan-chanting activists and flag-waving protesters obstructed the torch relay over the past week.

Last week, scenes of protesters swarming around Olympic torch-bearers in London and Paris made newspaper headlines around the world.

Protests against China's policies on human rights and Tibet were so vehement, security officials were forced to put out the flame and rush the torch onto a bus.

In spite of the huge resources the government set aside to spruce up Beijing in time for the Games, recent measures adopted to quell unrest seem to have eclipsed all its goodwill.

Measures to quell the unrest



THE FLAME IS CARRIED THROUGH LONDON.

**Beijing will have to work hard to salvage its image before the Games' grand opening in August**

in Lhasa last month incurred condemnation from around the world. In a move that aroused more controversy, the court jailed prominent human rights activist Hu Jia (胡佳) for three and a half years for "subverting the state". Human rights group used the verdict to accuse Beijing of trying to stamp out dissent ahead of the Games.

Ideally, the Olympics is supposed to be a celebration of fair competition and human athleticism.

However, given the campaigns waged by different organisations the world over to obstruct the Games, the event seems to have become a platform for detractors to voice their grievances and pressure the government to change.

France-based Reporters Without Borders has called for a boycott of the Games over China's alleged human rights abuses. New York-based Students for a Free Tibet has waged a series of campaigns to condemn China's treatment of dissent in the region.

Celebrities and athletes have also joined the fray.

Hollywood mogul Steven Spielberg dropped out as an artistic adviser to the Games – over China's policy in Sudan – in February. Norwegian cyclist Thor Hushovd announced last month that he might boycott the opening ceremony in response to China's treatment of Tibetans.

It seems that everyone has an axe to grind when it comes to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

While protests against the Games have helped shed light on the demands of Tibetan and Uygur activists, the way demonstrators and interest

### Shadows of history

In the lead-up to the Olympics, the torrent of negative publicity dogging China has caused great embarrassment to the government.

Leaders have called on overseas groups and governments not to mix sports and politics. Instead of being a purely sports event celebrating sportsmanship and human endurance, the history of Olympics has been tainted by political intrigue and racial rancour.

The infamous 1936 Berlin Olympics is a case in point. The modern ritual of the torch relay was invented by the Nazis. Scenes of bearers holding the steel-clad torches through swastika-draped thoroughfares in Berlin remain a stain on Olympic history.

Another notorious political incident remains etched on the Olympic psyche to this day - the brutal killing of Israeli athletes in the Olympic village by Palestinian terrorists at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

At the 1976 Montreal Olympics, 25 African nations withdrew from the event in protest against the Games' links with the white regime in South Africa. An ideological tug-of-war also played out on the Olympic stage. In 1980, the United States boycotted the Moscow Olympics and the Soviet Union withdrew from the Los Angeles Games in retaliation four years later. **Elaine Yau**

### Olympics spirit

Recently, protesters in Europe who support Tibet's freedom attempted to steal the Olympic torch and the relay was seriously affected.

The torch relay was cut short to avoid the protesters, just like it was in San Francisco.

Some people waved the Tibetan flag to demonstrate their support for Tibetan freedom.

I think these protests dampen the spirit of the Olympics.

Some of the protesters do not have a solid knowledge of what's going on in Tibet.

If the protests intensify, it will increase bad feelings between nations.

The original meaning of the torch relay was to bring peace to people all over the world and to let them know that the Olympics is coming.

Please stop these protests and let the torch relay bring peace and happiness to people around the world.

Edward

1. Why do people protest?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What will the protests increase?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the writer's attitude towards the protests? Is he for or against or neutral about the protests? Give a reason.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is your view? Do you support or oppose these protests?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

word forms		
verb	noun	adjective
1.-	-protest -protester	/
2.-support	-	/
3.-	-freedom	-
4-demonstrate	-	/
5.	-	-original
6.	-	-happy
7.	-peace	-

1. Do you think it is a good idea to do that? Do you \_\_\_\_\_ it? Are you for it?
2. We want \_\_\_\_\_. Please let us go home. Please let us do anything we like.
3. We want \_\_\_\_\_. We don't want war.
4. Lee Lai Shan will be the first runner in the Olympics \_\_\_\_\_.
5. We don't like what they do. They hate what we do. There are \_\_\_\_\_ between us.
6. There are too many \_\_\_\_\_ in the street. There may be accidents. The police will take some of them away.
7. We \_\_\_\_\_ flags to welcome them.
8. We don't want to see them. We \_\_\_\_\_ them.
9. Why do you \_\_\_\_\_ against the plan? The plan is good for us.
10. They try to make him understand. They \_\_\_\_\_ to make him understand.

	noun	verb	adjective	others(其他)
<p style="text-align: right;">24-4-08</p> <p><b>Embrace the Olympic spirit</b>                      The Olympic spirit <u>highlights mutual understanding, friendship, solidarity and fair play</u> and <u>promotes peace</u> around the world.                      But nowadays people seem to have forgotten this motto, and use the Games <u>for other purposes</u>. Pro-Tibet protesters who <u>tried to disrupt</u> the Olympic torch relay wanted to <u>get global attention</u>.                      They <u>used the opportunity</u> to promote their own agenda, which I think is wrong.</p>	<p>1. 精神</p> <hr/> <p>2. 公平比賽</p> <hr/> <p>3. 機會</p> <hr/> <p>4. 團結一致</p> <hr/> <p>5. 互相明白體諒</p> <hr/>	<p>6. 擁抱、欣然接受</p> <hr/> <p>7. 強調</p> <hr/> <p>8. 推廣</p> <hr/> <p>9. 擾亂</p> <hr/> <p>10. 得到全球的注視</p> <hr/>		
<p>At the same time, <u>leaders of some countries announced</u> that they may <u>boycott the opening ceremony</u> of the Beijing Olympics <u>in order to show their disapproval</u> of the central government.  <u>Politics and the Olympics should not mix</u>. Leaders should <u>respect the Olympic spirit</u>.                      Even in Hong Kong, some groups <u>are organising protests</u> during the torch relay. I'm really <u>disappointed</u>.</p>	<p>11. 開幕典禮</p> <hr/> <p>12. 領袖</p> <hr/> <p>13. 反對</p> <hr/> <p>14. 政治</p> <hr/>	<p>15. 宣佈</p> <hr/> <p>16. 杯葛</p> <hr/> <p>17. 表示、表達</p> <hr/> <p>18. 尊重、尊敬</p> <hr/> <p>19. 正在籌備</p> <hr/>	<p>20. 失望 I am</p> <hr/>	<p>21. 為了 I work hard</p> <hr/> <p>get good results.</p> <hr/>
<p>As Chinese, we should <u>fully support</u> the Beijing Olympics. If these groups also want to use the torch relay to get the world's attention, they're no different from the <u>pro-Tibet demonstrators</u>.                      I hope the police will <u>ensure</u> the <u>smooth</u> running of the torch relay in Hong Kong.                      But, most importantly, people around the world should <u>embrace and respect</u> the Olympic spirit.  <b>Mok Seen-ling, Our Lady of the Rosary College</b></p>	<p>22. 親西藏示威者</p> <hr/>	<p>23. 確保</p> <hr/>	<p>24. 順利的</p> <hr/>	<p>25. 完全地</p> <hr/>

A.

spirit	fair play	opportunity	mutual understanding
embrace	highlight	promote	disrupt solidarity

1. We will not cheat. We will have \_\_\_\_\_ here.
2. We try our best. We show the Olympic \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Don't shout. Don't fight. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the lesson.
4. The mother and father \_\_\_\_\_ their child, who have come back safely.
5. Underline this word to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
6. Don't argue. Don't fight. We must show \_\_\_\_\_.
7. We take this \_\_\_\_\_ to know more about nature.
8. We often chat to increase \_\_\_\_\_.

B

Opening Ceremony	leader	politics	boycott
In order to	organise	show	respect

1. We will stop buying their things to \_\_\_\_\_ their shop.
2. We should \_\_\_\_\_ other people, rich or poor.
3. We go there \_\_\_\_\_ see our idol.
4. We are writing to invite you to our \_\_\_\_\_.
5. He is a good group \_\_\_\_\_. All the members listen to him.

C

Pro-Tibet	ensure	smoothly	fully
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1. I hope that there will be no problems and that everything will go \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Please \_\_\_\_\_ that the door is closed before you leave.

## **Real spirit of the Games**

The Olympic Games embodies the ideals of friendship and unity between nations. The idea of the Games was to prevent conflicts between nations.

Instead athletes from different countries would compete on the track. The spirit of the Olympics reminds us of the importance of peace in the world.

It also provides a good opportunity for cultural exchanges between nations.

I hope the Beijing Olympics can promote Chinese culture to the entire world and enable us to learn more about other countries.

Some athletes cheat and some countries try to exploit the Games. But we have to remember what the Games really stands for. It should have nothing to do with politics.

I hope China will exemplify the real spirit of the Games and promote its real goal – benevolence.

**Jerry Lo, Tai Po**

### **Ping-Pong Diplomacy (April 6 - 17, 1971)**

One of the first public hints of improved U.S.-China relations came on April 6, 1971, when the American Ping-Pong team, in Japan for the 31st World Table Tennis Championship, received a surprise invitation from their Chinese colleagues for an all-expense paid visit to the People's Republic. *Time* magazine called it "The ping heard round the world." On April 10, nine players, four officials, and two spouses stepped across a bridge from Hong Kong to the Chinese mainland, ushering in an era of "Ping-Pong diplomacy." They were the first group of Americans allowed into China since the Communist takeover in 1949.

Ten journalists, including five Americans, were also invited to cover the team's visit, ending the information blockade from the People's Republic in place since 1949. From April 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, a delighted American public followed the daily progress of the visit in newspapers and on television, as the Americans played--and lost-- exhibition matches with their hosts, toured the Great Wall and Summer Palace, chatted with Chinese students and factory workers, and attended the Canton Ballet.

Premier Chou En-lai worked the public relations opportunity beautifully, receiving the Americans at a banquet in the Great Hall of the People on April 14. "You have opened a new chapter in the relations of the American and Chinese people," he told the unlikely diplomats. "I am confident that this beginning again of our friendship will certainly meet with majority support of our two peoples." He also extended an invitation for more American journalists to visit China, provided they do not "all come at one time." That same day, the U.S. announced plans to remove a 20-year embargo on trade with China. A Chinese table tennis team reciprocated by visiting the United States.

Ping-Pong was "an apt metaphor for the relations between Washington and Peking" noted a *Time* reporter, as each nation signaled, in turn, its openness to change. Despite the public warming trend, Nixon and Kissinger decided to keep their back-channel negotiations with China to themselves. It was not until July 15, after Kissinger's secret mission to Beijing, that Nixon announced that he, too, would make the journey the following year, as the first American president to visit China.

# Thousands back in queues for right to a slice of Games history



Sisters visiting Hong Kong from Changchun (長春) in China's far northeast show the tickets entitling them to buy Olympic banknotes today. Photo: Sam Tsang

### Celine Sun

Tens of thousands of people were back queuing outside six Bank of China branches in Hong Kong yesterday to get their hands on commemorative Olympic banknotes – and tickets entitling the holders to buy the most coveted banknote packages today went quickly.

Hours after being told to go home as torrential rain lashed the city on Tuesday, the souvenir hunters returned in force.

Queues began forming at 8am and did not break up until long after nightfall. Bank of China, the distribu-

tor of the notes, brought forward to 2pm its distribution of tickets for purchases today.

The bank is selling five sets of banknotes. Tickets entitling the purchaser to buy all five went within a few hours.

By late afternoon, staff registering those in the queue and issuing them tickets warned those further back that they might not have a chance of obtaining the two most sought after sets – a sheet of 35 uncut HK\$20 notes and a double sheets of four uncut HK\$20 notes and four uncut 20-pataca notes.

By 9pm, tickets entitling the buyer

Chaos or joy?  
**A3**

Editorial, Harry's view  
**A14**

to a sheet of four uncut HK\$20 notes were also gone. Each ticket gives the buyer a time to go to a BOC branch to make their purchase.

Some in the queues were only there to make a quick buck. Tickets and the stamps themselves were being offered for sale on the internet. A ticket entitling the holder to buy all five packages was offered for sale for HK\$7,000, but got few responses. Sets of 35 uncut stamps, which cost HK\$1,388, were being offered for up to HK\$16,000.

At one point, the queue outside the Bank of China Tower in Central stretched to Pacific Place in Admiralty.

Some people suffered in the hot weather. Parents queuing with young children complained that the bank refused to register those aged under 11. Others griped that registering took too long.

Police reinforcements were called in to maintain order.

BOC will sell the banknotes from today until July 31. Aside from the six major branches selling them, another 44 branches are selling single commemorative HK\$20 notes.





A woman climbs out of line, and a youngster (below) has a tough time waiting. Photos: Sam Tsang, Robert Ng

### Note worthy

The new Bank of China notes are finding buyers on the grey market

A set of 35 uncut HK\$20 bills that sold for HK\$1,388 are reportedly being sold on the secondary market, in HK dollars, for more than

**\$10,000**

Poon Kwun-yin, 10, and her brother, Poon Kwun-leung, five, queued in North Point with their mother from 8am yesterday.

But it was a complete waste of time for the siblings because children under 11 years old were not allowed to buy the banknotes under a rule that took effect yesterday. It was not until late in the afternoon that the family found out about it.

Mrs Poon said it was unfair that some children had been allowed to register on Monday – before the new rule took effect.

“They are both sweating but can get nothing,” Mrs Poon said in dismay.

But the family was not giving up. Mrs Poon ended up obtaining a “purchase pass” and her husband started queuing late in the afternoon.



## Views from the queue



**Wu Man-har, 58, queued for 17 hours in To Kwa Wan with friend Ng Fong-ye, 62, whom she met when doing morning exercise together**

"We are happy but in extreme agony after the long queuing process."



**Lee Chun-wing, 66, retired, suffering from diabetes, kidney problems and heart disease, started queuing at 10am yesterday in To Kwa Wan**

"It's not good to sleep too much so I came to queue."



**Cass Koo, 26, queued for six hours in To Kwa Wan**

"I am already very glad that I don't have to queue for 48 hours."



**Wu Sum-yin, 60, waited four hours in To Kwa Wan**

"The arrangement is really messy and I don't know why I have been here torturing myself for so many hours."



**Louisa Poon, 40, first in the queue at Bank of China, Central**

"I am not going to sell the commemorative banknotes. I cannot feel happier than having an uncut sheet of 35 notes."



**Kenneth Chan, 16, queued with Form Four classmate Ken Yip, 17**

"We are pretty disappointed that the bank gave us the coupon early. We expected to camp out for at least one night."



**Zhang Shuzhen, 40, from Changchun (长春)**

"I came with my sister from Changchun. We will not return to the mainland until we have the banknotes in our hands. This is the only chance in 100 years."



**Ariel Cheung, eight**

"I feel tired and bored. The bank should let me buy them more easily. It was a waste of my time and effort lining up for so long."



**Fung Wing-ngai, 40, queued with his son, Fung Yuk-hei, five**

"I do not care whether the bank has made an announcement about people under 11 not being able to queue or not. The point is, the message did not reach us."

## Munich Massacre

### The worst tragedy in modern Olympic history

The Munich Olympics in 1972 were marred by terrorism.

by Mike Morrison

In 1972 the Olympics returned to Germany for the first time since 1936. Back then, Nazism was hitting its stride and Adolf Hitler hoped to use the Games as a way to show off the "superiority" of his Aryan race on a world's stage.

Most Germans hoped the Munich Games in 1972 would at least in some way help to heal the racial wounds caused by Hitler. The world was still rife with political unrest. The Vietnam War raged on, racial tensions in the United States persisted, and violence littered the Middle East. German president Gustav Heinemann welcomed the Olympics as "a milestone on the road to a new way of life with the aim of realizing peaceful coexistence among peoples."

#### Eight Arab Terrorists

On the morning of September 5, with six days left in the Games, the worst tragedy in Olympic history hit. Eight Arab terrorists stormed into the Olympic village and raided the apartment building that housed the Israeli contingent. Two Israeli athletes were killed and nine more were seized as hostages. They demanded the release of over 200 Palestinians serving time in Israeli jails, along with two renowned German terrorists.

After a day of unsuccessful negotiations, the terrorists collected the hostages and headed for the military airport in Munich for a flight back to the Middle East. At the airport, German sharpshooters opened fire, killing three of the Palestinians. A horrifying gun battle ensued, claiming the lives of all nine of the hostages, along with one policeman and two terrorists.

#### Controversial Decision

Athletic competition was suspended for 24 hours. During a day of mourning, a memorial service was held at the main stadium in front of 80,000 spectators. In a controversial decision, IOC president Avery Brundage declared, "the Games must go on." And so they did, with the Olympic and national flags flying at half-mast.

The most memorable footage from Munich should have been that of American swimmer Mark Spitz winning his seventh gold medal or 17-year-old Russian gymnast Olga Korbut wowing the world on the balance beam. Instead, we're left with disturbing photos of terrorists in ski masks and of a policeman standing on the roof of the compound waiting to pounce with a semi-automatic weapon. And ultimately we're left with the video of ABC announcer Jim McKay uttering his fateful words, "They're all gone."

## Appendix D-1- Footballer Beckham



Real Madrid's David Beckham scores from a free kick against Real Sociedad to bring his side level at 1-1. Real went on to win 2-1. Photo: Reuters

# Beckham goal helps save Capello's job

### Agencies in Madrid

David Beckham earned the plaudits of his teammates, Fabio Capello and the Spanish media after he marked his return with a goal that helped Real Madrid to a 2-1 comeback victory at Real Sociedad.

Beckham, sidelined for a month by Capello following his announcement that he would join MLS side LA Galaxy at the end of the season, cancelled out Sociedad's early lead with a trademark free kick eight minutes before half-time.

Ruud van Nistelrooy secured the victory with a brave header, three minutes into the second half to give

Real their first points in three games.

"Beckham spares the life of his executioner," was *Marca's* verdict on the midfielder's goal, saying that Capello was in debt to the former England captain after his performance.

"A gift from Beckham to Capello," was *El Pais'* description of the goal, while most papers were agreed that the victory had saved the former Juventus coach from dismissal.

Capello, who said Beckham's professional attitude in training had persuaded him to reverse his decision to exclude him for the rest of

the season, was delighted with his performance.

"You have to be happy when players score important goals and David's goal was very important," the Italian said after the game.

"I am happy that Beckham scored. All the team is happy for him. I have spoken with him twice in the course of the last two weeks, but what we said will remain just between us.

"He played a great game and deserves the credit.

"As I said before, the mark of an intelligent person is one who knows how to rectify his mistakes."

On Friday, when Capello an-

nounced that Beckham had been recalled to the squad, the Italian had been fulsome in his praise of the player.

"He is a great professional and we are counting on him until the end of the season," said Capello.

Van Nistelrooy also heaped praise on his former Manchester United colleague. "Beckham has been fantastic, his attitude has been brilliant," said the Dutchman.

"When you go for a month without playing it isn't easy to be at your best, but he always trains hard and has a very positive attitude. That's why you can always bet on him."

*Reuters, Agence France-Presse*

# Cancer surgery can wait, says Beijing-bound Shanteau

**Paul Newberry**

When Eric Shanteau touched the wall second at the US Olympic trials, he was overcome by the joy of reaching a lifelong goal.

The celebration didn't last long.

Shanteau had barely locked up his trip to Beijing when he was forced to deal with a gut-wrenching choice: Should he have surgery for the testicular cancer hardly anyone knew about? Or, should he put it off for another month so he could swim at his first Olympics?

Shanteau chose the Olympics. Surgery will have to wait.

Shanteau (pictured) said he learned just a week before leaving for the US Olympic trials that he has cancer.

"I was sort of like, 'This isn't real. There's no way this is happening to me right now,'" he said from the team's pre-Beijing training camp in California. "You're trying to get ready for the



Olympics, and you just get this huge bomb dropped on you."

His doctors cleared him to compete at the trials in Omaha, Nebraska, determining he

wouldn't be at great risk by delaying treatment. Then, Shanteau (pictured) surprisingly made the team in the 200 metre breaststroke, finishing second ahead of former world-record holder and heavy favourite Brendan Hansen.

He's putting off surgery until after the Olympics because it would keep him out of the water for at least two weeks, ruining his Beijing preparations. The 24-year-old Georgia native will be monitored closely over the next month by US Olympic team doctors and vows to withdraw if there's any sign his cancer is spreading.

"If I didn't make the team, the decision would have been easy: Go home and have the

surgery," said Shanteau. "I made the team, so I had a hard decision. But, by no means am I being stupid about this."

Still, there are no guarantees.

"With any cancer, you want to find it early and treat it early for the best outcome," Dr Brett Baker, who delivered the news to Shanteau, said. "That was my recommendation. It's difficult to say in his scenario what to expect. The risk, of course, is that time is an opportunity for disease progression."

Seeking out advice from team doctors and other outside experts, Shanteau came up with own plan. He will have his blood tested once a week and a CT scan done every two weeks through the Olympics, hoping that will be enough to keep a handle on the disease.

"If something comes up abnormal," he said, "then that's kind of a barrier I shouldn't cross."

In most cases of this type, Baker said it's impossible to know for sure what type of testicular cancer the patient has - or, even the slight chance that it's not cancer at all - until the tumour is removed surgically for a biopsy.

"Sometimes, the best decisions are not always exactly the way the doctor sees it," Baker said. "I don't consider him crazy at all. I think if he's happy and content with playing it out this way, that's the most important thing."

If Shanteau can't compete, the Americans would add Scott Usher as their second swimmer in the 200m breaststroke. He encouraged Shanteau to keep training.

"I've been trying to play in my head what I would do in his situation," Usher said. "I don't know if I would have taken the same route he has, to be honest ... Cancer is not something you want to mess around with."

.....  
Associated Press



Spaniard Javier Otxoa climbs the Hautacam on his way to winning the 10th stage of the 2000 Tour de France in the Pyrenees, and in his King of the Mou

# Otxoa battles back from the wheel of misfortune

Spaniard is a paralympics hero after being hit by a car, seeing his brother die and spending two months in a coma. **Simon Baskett** reports

**E**xhausted, drenched and at the end of his tether, Javier Otxoa emerged from the mist that was cloaking the Hautacam and take a Tour de France stage ahead of the rapidly closing Lance Armstrong.

That July 10, 2000, the 25-year-old Spaniard joined the exclusive club of riders who have realised their life's ambition and won a stage in the world's greatest cycling race. Otxoa did it the hard way, making his bid for glory only 45km into the epic 205km stage and then riding solo until he had built up a 17-minute lead over the peloton.

With Armstrong determined to break the field and set up his second Tour victory, the lead had been whittled away to just 42 seconds by the time the slightly built Spaniard crossed the line and collapsed into the arms of his elated twin brother Ricardo, a fellow professional with the Kelme team.

Seven months later Javier and Ricardo were run down by a car as they returned home from their daily training ride near the southern Spanish city of Malaga. Ricardo was killed, Javier suffered terrible injuries and spent the next two months in a coma from which few thought he would emerge.

With a severed sciatic nerve, cerebral damage and the loss of part of his left lung, doctors feared that even if he did pull through Javier would spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

Twenty-one months later, in a remarkable testament to his courage, strength and determination, Otxoa defied the predictions and managed to get back on a bike again. Despite his problems of balance, the fear of training on the road and chronic pain in his legs and back, he decided to try to renew his cycling career as a paralympic athlete.

Just over four years after his triumph over Armstrong, he won gold in the combined event at the Athens Paralympics. He claimed two more golds at last year's

world championships in Aigle and is now preparing for the next Paralympics in Beijing.

Now 32, Otxoa says his recollections of life before the accident are something of a blur.

"I don't remember anything of the accident," Otxoa said at the recent Laureus sports awards. "I don't remember much about the Tour either, but I do remember it was a really impressive event, especially with the people supporting at the roadside.

"Whoever takes part knows that they have the admiration of the fans, whether you are a big star or just one of the team riders helping the leader."

Speaking in a soft, low voice because of damage to his vocal cords, Otxoa said the accident and the long, drawn-out legal case

Many people would have given up, but to overcome all the difficulties and improve over the course of the years is an incredible achievement

Cycling great Miguel Indurain on Otxoa's courage and determination

which followed had blighted his family.

"My father and mother saw that two of their sons were trying to follow a career riding a bike professionally and then the fact that a man drove into us destroyed everything for them.

"They were never given any explanation as to why he ran into us, so it has always been very difficult for them. Things weren't resolved until last year. It took so long to get a verdict."

Although he and his family feel that the driver was treated too leniently in receiving a fine and a one-year ban, Otxoa said his desire to ride again had given him a new purpose in life.

"At the start, the doctors saw the outlook as being so bad they said I would never ride a bike again, that I would be bed-ridden or in a wheelchair for the rest of my life.

"Fortunately, and thanks to god, I have been able to ride again and although I still have some pain, I think I'm improving.

"Getting back on the bike helped me exercise my whole body a little more. There are certain things that will always be difficult for me because of the accident, such as keeping my balance and the lack of strength in my left leg.

"It is also difficult for me to get out of the saddle when I'm riding and to look behind because I get disorientated so I always have to look ahead, but little by little and with hard work I feel more comfortable on the bike."

Otxoa's courage and determination have won him the admiration of cycling great Miguel Indurain.

"He's kept going with a passion of his, a desire he had from before the accident and it has taken great courage and effort," the five-time Tour de France winner said.

"Many people would have given up or lost motivation after an accident like his, but to carry on, overcome all the difficulties and improve over the course of the years is an incredible achievement."

Training on the road with other disabled cyclists remains a risky business for Otxoa, but he says the prospect of competing in another Olympics is more than enough incentive.

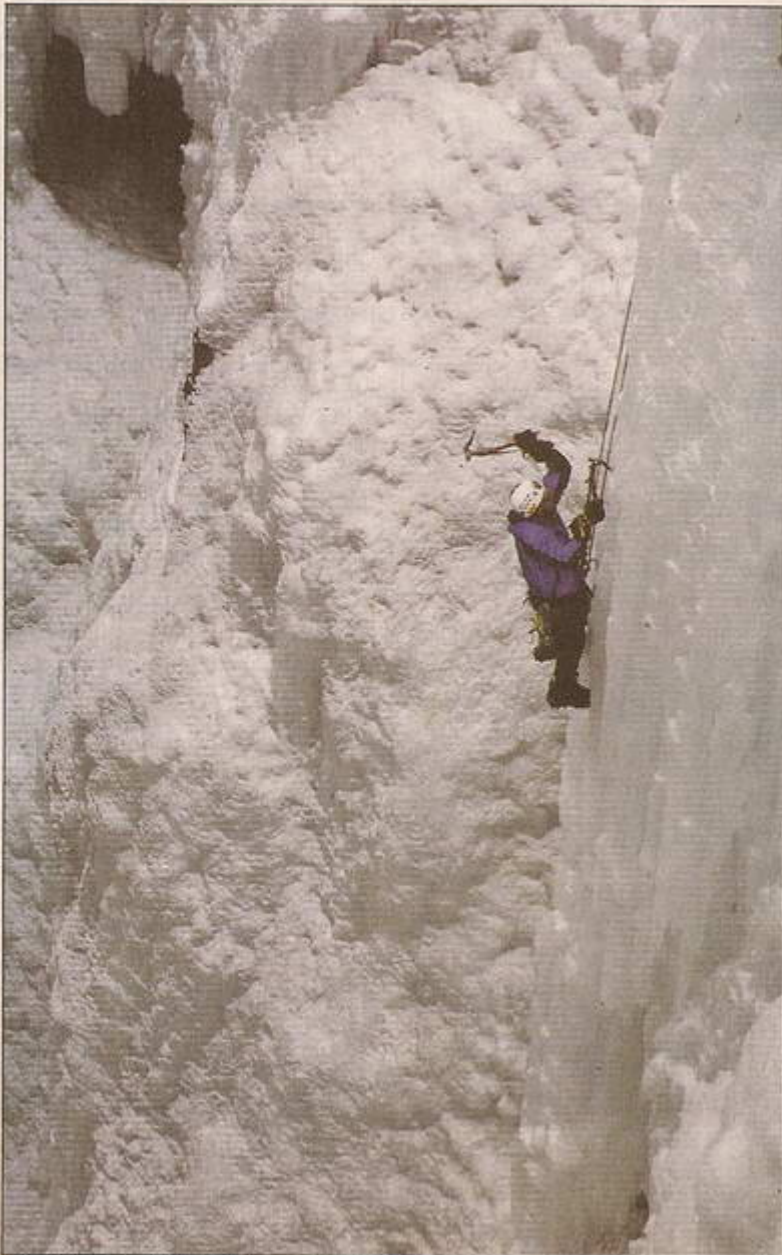
"I'm really looking forward to the chance of going to the Paralympics next year," he said.

"I hope I can take part and win something there. I hope that none of the people who train with me has an accident in training as we all have various problems, but if things go well I will be battling it out for a medal again."

Reuters



# Blind mountaineer has



## Niki Law

Erik Weihenmayer – the first blind person to reach the summit of the world's highest peak – has experienced some of nature's most amazing wonders in his lifetime, but Hong Kong's mountains hold a special and irreplaceable place in his heart.

On his first trip back to the city since 1980, Weihenmayer recalled how as a child he used to spend hours trekking through the hills near the Hong Kong International School in Tai Tam where he was a pupil from grades two to six.

A skinny child with thick glasses, he was fighting a losing battle against retinoschisis – a degenerative disease where the retina splits and cysts form between retinal layers.

"Exploring Repulse Bay and hiking around Hong Kong's mountains – there was just so much potential to discover cool and exciting things. I don't recall where exactly it was but I remember hiking up these long stairs and at the top there was this little peaceful monastery," said the 37-year-old.

"I remember how awe-inspired I was. I thought I was somewhere really special. It was not just the adrenalin. I would round a corner and come across something I have never seen before that's just beautiful. Mountains are like that, and when you reach the summit of any

Blind climber Erik Weihenmayer has 20 more mountains to conquer and intends to carry on till his knees pack up. Photo: HighSights



# a soft spot for Hong Kong heights

mountain you always get that same feeling [of accomplishment].”

The images of beauty he saw during those years remain firmly imprinted in his mind, partly due to the fact that two years after leaving Hong Kong, at age 13, he lost his vision completely.

He now holds the title of the first blind man to reach the top of Mount Everest after setting foot on the summit on May 25, 2001. Sixteen months later, at 34, he had conquered the highest peaks of the seven continents.

Since then he has written two books – including *The Adversity Advantage: Seven Steps Toward Everyday Greatness*, which he just completed – and made a movie.

“When I went blind it was like getting hit in the head with a sledgehammer. I was not afraid to see darkness. What I worried about was that my life would become meaningless,” he said.

“But you have to turn into the storm and take it head on. Obstacles either crush you or fuel you. Difficult things happen and they

make you search harder for meaning. Find your passion, keep the big picture in your mind, take things one step at a time and don’t sabotage yourself.”

Weihenmayer’s CV – which describes him as a world-class acrobatic skydiver, long-distance biker, marathon runner, skier and ice and rock climber – may look like that of a crazy daredevil, but he insists he is no adrenalin junkie.

“When I climbed Everest, people said: ‘This blind guy is going to kill people up there. He is setting

himself up for a huge risk and he will be a liability.’ But I only decided to do it because I knew I could climb it safely and I was willing to turn back gracefully if I couldn’t.

“Near-death experiences make for great books and movies but they don’t make for great living. You might make it through one or two but they will catch up to you. I’m no blind Evel Knievel. I want to be the world’s most boring climber.”

Although thankful for the opportunity to have climbed the world’s highest summit, Weihenmayer is upset that hordes of irresponsible climbers are now flocking to Everest every year.

“Billionaires who have never climbed before think they can climb Mt Everest. Everybody wants freedom and opportunity but not the discipline and responsibility that goes with it. That’s the most troubling thing in our society.”

Weihenmayer will continue climbing – there are 20 more mountains he wants to conquer – until his knees pack up. In June he will help non-profit organisation Global Explorers guide a group of sighted and blind children to Machu Picchu, the ancient Inca city in the Andes mountains of Peru.

After that he heads off to the Dolomites in Italy in July and then to Africa in August to tackle the 5,200-metre Mount Kenya.

**“Near-death experiences make for great books and movies but they don’t make for great living. You might make it through one or two but they will catch up to you ... I want to be the world’s most boring climber”**

Erik Weihenmayer

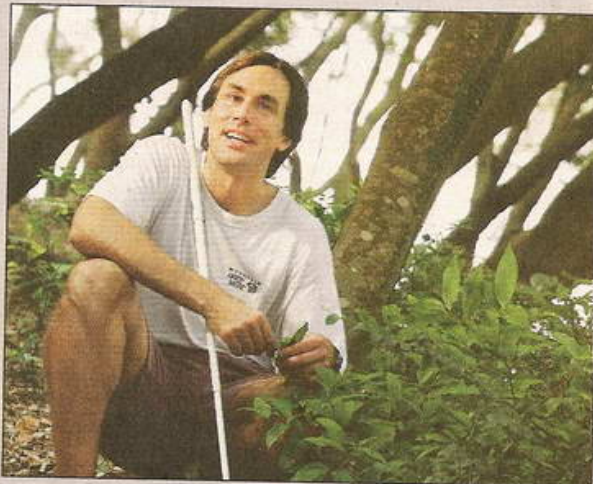
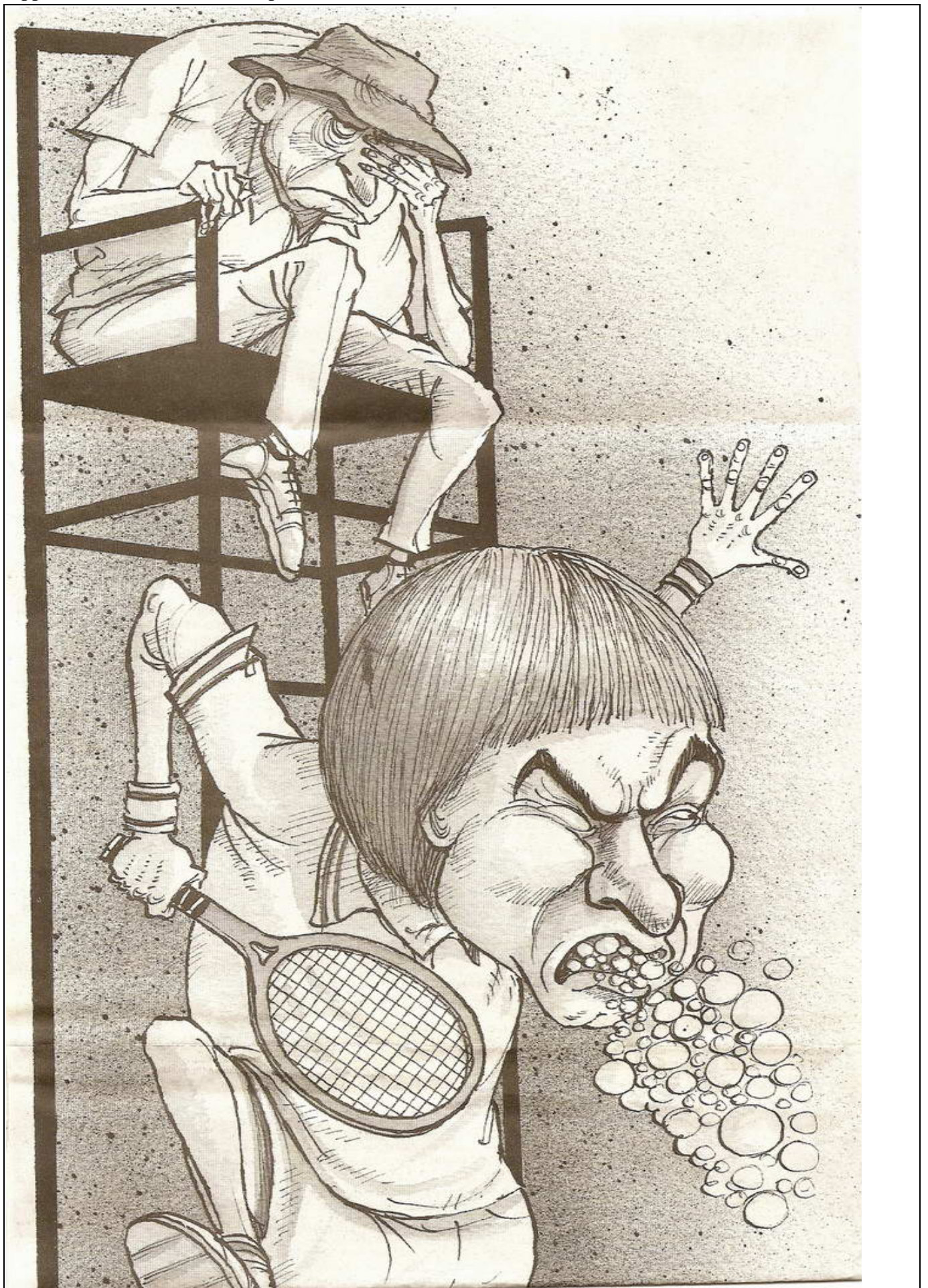


Photo: Oliver Tsang

■ Ascent into madness – Page 14



## There's an art to playing with your opponent's mind - and getting away with it, writes **Glenn Moore**

**W**hen a woman's gotta go, she's gotta go. Except that when Serena Williams was

offered the chance to take a "comfort break" in her remarkable third-round match against Daniela Hantuchova at Wimbledon last Monday night she suddenly did not need to go after all.

Williams' selective need to visit the bathroom has prompted allegations of gamesmanship. Some critics have even suggested she also faked the calf injury that added such a dramatic air to her victory.

The last charge is ludicrous. Williams' yelp of pain, and her collapse to the turf, was obviously genuine. That she only wanted to go for a toilet break when her opponent was about to serve (which is no longer permitted), and not when she herself was about to serve does seem more Machiavellian.

If so it was hardly a new development, nor even an extreme one. Forget the strawberries and cream, "Oh I say, anyone for tennis?" image of what, in the UK at least, is still the most middle-class pastime.

At its professional heart, lawn tennis is as devious as any other sport. This is a sport where many players, of all levels, keep a copy of Brad Gilbert's *Winning Ugly* in their kitbag, a book which devotes 63 pages to "mind games, psyching out and gamesmanship".

Nick Bollettieri, the legendary coach, has seen most of the tricks in his half-century in the game. "There is no way on this earth that Serena's cramp had anything to do with gamesmanship," he said. "Her calf was swollen like a grapefruit. As for the toilet break, I don't know. It's a thin line. I'm sure she needed the bathroom, and I can accept that as she took control of the match, she wanted to stay on court.

"There was more obvious gamesmanship in Rafael Nadal's match with Robin Soderling. Nadal was playing with his pants, pulling up his socks, bouncing the ball 30 or 40 times or something ridiculous. Then Soderling was mimicking Nadal."

Many in the game feel Nadal's timewasting is gamesmanship. Players are supposed to play at the speed of the server, but Nadal dictates his own tempo.

So does Maria Sharapova who, between every point, turns to the back of the court, fiddles with her racquet strings, then deigns to serve or receive.

It would be a bold player who served regardless to someone of the stature of Nadal or Sharapova.

The men can only take toilet breaks at

the end of a set. But that is also open to abuse. Eyebrows were also raised at the eight-minute break Feliciano Lopez required after losing the fourth set against Tim Henman. The delay broke Henman's rhythm and Lopez won the fifth.

The use of Hawk-Eye challenges and injury time-outs are other potential sources of gamesmanship but, adds Bollettieri, "in a historical context, this is Mickey Mouse stuff compared to the great gamesmen".

"I mean Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, Ilie Nastase. Now that was gamesmanship, and the crowds loved it. McEnroe always questioned the umpire. Connors had rages of terror. And it was all controlled. Nastase just glared at everybody. These guys knew what they were doing."

McEnroe has admitted many of his outbursts were calculated to upset his opponent, while even the joking antics of a Nastase, or Henri Leconte, can have the same effect. As for Connors, in *Winning Ugly* Gilbert recalls an encounter in a Chicago tournament.

In the final set Gilbert, with match-point on Connors' serve, hit a winner. He recalled

Nadal was playing with his pants, pulling up his socks, bouncing the ball 30 or 40 times or something ridiculous. Then Soderling was mimicking Nadal

.....  
Nick Bollettieri

Connors was "so mad stuff was coming out of his nose and he was spitting at the mouth". Indicating a supposed mark he screamed abuse at the line judge and umpire. To Gilbert's shock and horror the umpire suddenly announced an overrule. Gilbert, to no avail, protested. He failed to win another point as Connors won the match.

This appears closer to cheating than gamesmanship, the art of which was first defined (and labelled) in Stephen Potter's 1947 book, *Gamesmanship: The Art of Winning Games Without Actually Cheating*.

Potter describes how to interrupt an opponent's flow, or distract him, ideally while appearing sporting. Thus, though fidgeting while your golf opponent addresses the ball at the tee-box is unsporting, asking loudly for quiet so your opponent can concentrate appears sporting but achieves the same effect.

But surely golf, the game in which players police themselves, is clean? Downright cheating is extremely rare but

# How the pros draw a line between cheating and gamesmanship

gamesmanship occurs, albeit more often among club players than pros.

The most notorious incidents have tended to come in the Ryder Cup, perhaps because players become more emotionally involved. The American stampede across Jose Maria Olazabal's line at Brookline in 1999 is perhaps the most infamous event but that could be put down to the heat of the moment. Eight years earlier, the animosity between Paul Azinger and Seve Ballesteros included the American calling the Spaniard, who had coughed throughout the round, "the King of gamesmanship".

This was gentle compared with the 1969 match at Royal Birkdale. A fourball pitting Bernhard Gallacher and Brian Huggett against Dave Hill and Ken Still became confrontational as early as the first green. Huggett told both opponents off for their movement and positioning. On the next green Still loudly ordered his caddie not to hold the flag for Gallacher. The quartet simmered until Hill missed a putt at the seventh and holed out only for Gallacher to note he had putted out of turn. Still replied: "You can have the hole and the goddamn Cup."

On the eighth Gallacher, in a brilliant exposition of Potter's dictum about appearing to be sporting, while actually being unsporting, conceded Still's putt. This denied Hill, who was in position to win the hole, a chance to read the line. Eventually Hill allegedly told Gallacher: "If you say one more word I'm going to wrap this one-iron around your head." The Americans won on the 17th. Hill refused to shake hands with the referee.

Such behaviour is "just not cricket", except cricket is hardly exempt. If appealing when the batsman is not out, or claiming a grounded catch, is really cheating, bowlers going off for a breather after a long spell, or creating footmarks for their spinners, are more akin to gamesmanship. Then there is sledging, a technique calculated to break an opponent's concentration. Even administrators indulge, deliberately creating wickets to suit their side's attack.

Other sports are similarly affected. Footballers habitually appeal for a throw-in, or corner, when they know the ball went out of play off themselves; some "dive" in an attempt to hoodwink referees. Gamesmanship – or cheating?

And what of the dark arts of the rugby scrum? How, too, do we categorise the more infamous shunts in Formula One? When Alain Prost drove Ayrton Senna off the track at Suzuka in 1989, and Michael Schumacher crashed into Damon Hill at Adelaide in 1994, in both cases ensuring they took the championship, were they showing gamesmanship, or a reckless disregard for safety? Such acts make Serena Williams' request look mild. Besides, Hantuchova should have had the steel to ignore her.

"In pro sports, small margins matter, so players use any advantage within the rules, gamesmanship included," Bollettieri concluded. "But the bottom line for any pro is get the job done. If you're good enough to be out there, you have to be strong enough, focused enough, to think only of the ball, the point, the match. Block distractions out and they're not going to hurt you."

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The Independent

# School scandal a setback for games

'Drug abuse at this level is dismaying news' and puts China's reputation at risk, says Gosper

## ■ DOPING

Agencies in Sydney and Beijing

The alleged discovery of organised doping at a Chinese sports school has put the reputation of Chinese sports at risk just two years from the Beijing Olympics, International Olympic Committee member Kevan Gosper said yesterday.

State media reported on Thursday that teachers at the Liaoning Anshan Athletics School had been caught injecting teenagers – some as young as 15 – with performance-boosting drugs including testosterone, leading to accusations that the school was practising "collective doping".

The raid, prompted by a tip-off, was made on August 8 at a training camp the school was holding in Harbin, Heilongjiang province.

Australian Gosper (pictured), who is deputy chairman of the IOC coordination commission for Beijing, said the news was a setback for Beijing Games organisers.

"It's extremely disappointing news for the Beijing sports authorities, it's a setback for Bocog [Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games] and it's destabilising for the Olympic athletes preparing for 2008," Gosper told *The Australian* newspaper yesterday.

"Drug abuse at school level is dismaying news," he said. "It is a blatant disregard for the health and ethical well-being of young people and it is strictly in defiance of Chinese law."

A spokesman for the Chinese Olympic committee's anti-doping commission, Zhao Jian, said anti-

doping officials had found 450 doses of erythropoietin (EPO), testosterone and steroids. There were 25 bottles of EPO, nine bottles of testosterone and 17 bottles of steroids in a room where school staff were caught injecting 10 students with drugs.

A further 275 doses of EPO and 124 doses of steroids were subsequently found in a refrigerator in headmaster Shao Huibin's room.

The students, aged from 15 to 18, were preparing for provincial games. Their teachers and coaches now face criminal prosecution under China's 2004 anti-doping code.

Gosper praised the action of the Chinese Olympic committee in uncovering and announcing the drug conspiracy.

"The fact that the Chinese Olympic committee raided the school and the Chinese agency Xinhua has reported it first demonstrates the serious view taken by the Chinese authorities on this issue," he said.

Controversial athletics coach Ma Junren, who was based in Liaoning, produced a crop of world-class distance runners known as "Ma's Army" in the 1990s.

Ma always maintained his athletes broke world records and won world titles with the help of nothing more than turtle blood, caterpillar fungus and a gruelling training schedule.

Just before the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, however, Ma and six of his runners were dropped from the team when blood tests revealed abnormal results.

Xinhua reported that Ma was once a coach at the Anshan school, which was founded in 1992.

Another sports school in Liaoning provincial capital Shenyang was caught doping students in 2002, while Liaoning distance runner Sun Yingjie was banned for two years after testing positive for the steroid androsterone.

*Agence France-Presse, Reuters*



# Valverde dodges tough questions about doping

## CYCLING

Justin Davis in London

Yellow jersey hopeful Alejandro Valverde faced down a probing media pack as he finalised preparations to take his third Tour de France campaign all the way to the finish.

Valverde is one of the biggest talents to emerge from Spain since the legendary Miguel Indurain but in recent months his name has been linked to the "Operation Puerto" doping affair.

Italian Ivan Basso was handed a two-year ban after ending months of denials by saying he had doped. Bizarrely, one of the keys to Basso's testimony was the name of his dog.

"Birillo" was one of several codenames found on bags of blood during a raid on the premises of Spanish sports doctor Eufemiano Fuentes, who is the suspected mastermind of a blood doping and doping network.

Basso admitted to investigators months ago that "Birillo" did refer to his dog, and on Friday it was Valverde's turn to confirm whether the codename "Valv-Piti 18", also found on a blood bag, referred to him.

His Caisse d'Epargne team came prepared, however, and questions about any association to Fuentes were quickly shot down, prompting some of the media to leave the conference.

"We're fed up with the same old questions all the time," said Valverde, who despite his racing prowess has failed to finish his past two Tours due to injuries from crashes. "We're human beings before anything else, and it's really hard to concentrate on our careers as professional cyclists. Our patience has a limit."

Valverde is among the 189 cyclists here who have, in principle, agreed to submit DNA samples to the International Cycling Union (UCI) to clear their names from all suspicion in the Puerto affair.

That measure was also a pre-re-

quisite for the embattled Tour organisers.

The 27-year-old Valverde made amends for crashing out of last year's Tour by finishing runner-up to Alexandre Vinokourov in the 2006 Tour of Spain. And it is the Kazakh, who rides for the Astana team, the Spaniard fears will do most damage.

"For me the favourite is Vinokourov, although there is also Andreas Kloden, Levi Leipheimer, Carlos Sastre and Cadel Evans," said Valverde, who also threw his teammate Oscar Pereiro into the mix.

Pereiro finished runner-up to Floyd Landis last year, and is still waiting to hear whether he will be crowned the 2006 champion following Landis' positive test for testosterone.

The American is absent from the

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We're fed up with the same old questions all the time. We're human beings before anything else

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Alejandro Valverde  
Caisse d'Epargne rider

race, and awaiting a decision from an arbitration panel.

Along with Russian Vladimir Karpets, the recent Tour of Switzerland winner, Pereiro could prove crucial to Valverde in the tough mountain stages.

Pereiro, meanwhile, said he was not going into the race believing he is the champion-in-waiting.

"Obviously anybody would be happy to win the Tour de France, but I don't see myself as having officially won," said the 29-year-old, who prior to 2006 had finished 10th overall on the race in the previous two editions.

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Agence France-Presse

# Fears of tainted race return as Liquigas rider Beltran tests positive for Doping rears its ugly head again

## CYCLING

**Jerome Pugnire and Naomi Koppel**  
in Aurillac, France

Doping is back at the Tour de France. It did not stay away very long.

The peaceful hull that had observers feeling optimistic did not last longer than a week, and the showcase race that was plunged into the depths of despair last year, sank right back down again following news of Manuel Beltran's positive test for the performance-enhancer EPO. He was immediately kicked out of the Tour and suspended by his team, Liquigas.

"When are these idiots going to learn that it's over?" said Pat McQuaid, the leader of the International Cycling Union.

"They continue to think that they can beat the system. They're wrong.

The system is catching up all the time."

The 37-year-old Spanish rider, who rode alongside Lance Armstrong for three years as one of US Postal's cyclists, was taken away by French police within two hours of the positive test. He can ask for a "B" sample, although these rarely clear riders. If he does ask for it and he fails that test, too, he will be fired by the team, their directors said.

Beltran was targeted by the French anti-doping agency (AFLD) before the race had even started, after blood tests carried out on July 3-4 showed "abnormal parameters", the AFLD's chief Pierre Bordry said.

"Yes, they were of a nature to target him, that was why he was tested (on July 5)," Bordry said. "The parameters were abnormal. There are not just traces of EPO, there is EPO.

Whether there is a lot or a little, EPO is forbidden."

Beltran might not be alone, either, with Bordry adding that other riders – so far unidentified – are also under the spotlight for having abnormal blood parameters.

Liquigas spokesman Paolo Barbieri said police had taken Beltran from the team hotel to the town of Aurillac where the seventh stage finished. He confirmed police were searching rooms at the team's hotel.

Before the positive test, an exciting seventh stage had seen Luis-Leon Sanchez of Spain win with a solo ride and Kim Kirchen of Luxembourg retain the yellow jersey.

This year's Tour's first doping test means four ex-Armstrong teammates have tested positive in the past four years. In addition to Beltran, Floyd Landis, Roberto Heras of Spain

and Tyler Hamilton – all former Postal riders during Armstrong's seven Tour wins from 1999-2005 – failed doping tests after quitting the Texan's team.

Though Beltran will not continue in the Tour, his team will.

Last year, Coffidis withdrew after Cristian Moreni of Italy tested positive for testosterone, and pre-race favourite Alexandre Vinokourov's Kazakh-owned Astana team were kicked out by race organiser ASO after he tested positive for blood doping. Depending on what Beltran tells the police, Liquigas may eventually be forced out, too.

A police official confirmed Beltran was in custody. He said police are questioning him about where he took the drug and where he got it. They can keep him for 24 hours, the official said. He spoke on condition of



When are these idiots going to learn that it's over? They think they can beat the system.

They're wrong.

UCI chief Pat McQuaid, expressing anger after the arrest of Manuel Beltran of Liquigas (pictured above)

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# and again on Tour



When are these idiots going to learn that it's over? They think they can beat the system. They're wrong

UCI chief Pat McQuaid, expressing anger after the arrest of Manuel Beltran of Liquigas (pictured above)

anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

Every rider was blood-tested before the start of the race on July 3 and 4 by Bordy's AFLD, which is responsible for testing along with the French cycling federation. The UCI is not involved in testing this year because of a long-standing rift with ASO.

The AFLD announced on Friday that some 20 riders had abnormal blood-test results before the race, but none exceeded the limits for hemocrit. High levels of hemocrit are indicators of EPO use but do not confirm it.

UCI's McQuaid acknowledged ridding the sport of "the old guard" is a slow and painful process because "you don't change a culture overnight" - the proof being the past three Tours all have been marred by doping, each successive year peeling off

the tender scars before they've healed.

Last year, race-leader Michael Rasmussen was kicked out just days before the end for lying about his whereabouts to avoid pre-Tour doping tests, and Spaniard Iban Mayo also tested positive for EPO.

In the 2006 Tour, Landis tested positive for synthetic testosterone after a spectacular comeback ride that set the stage for his Tour victory. He later was stripped of his title following a long court battle.

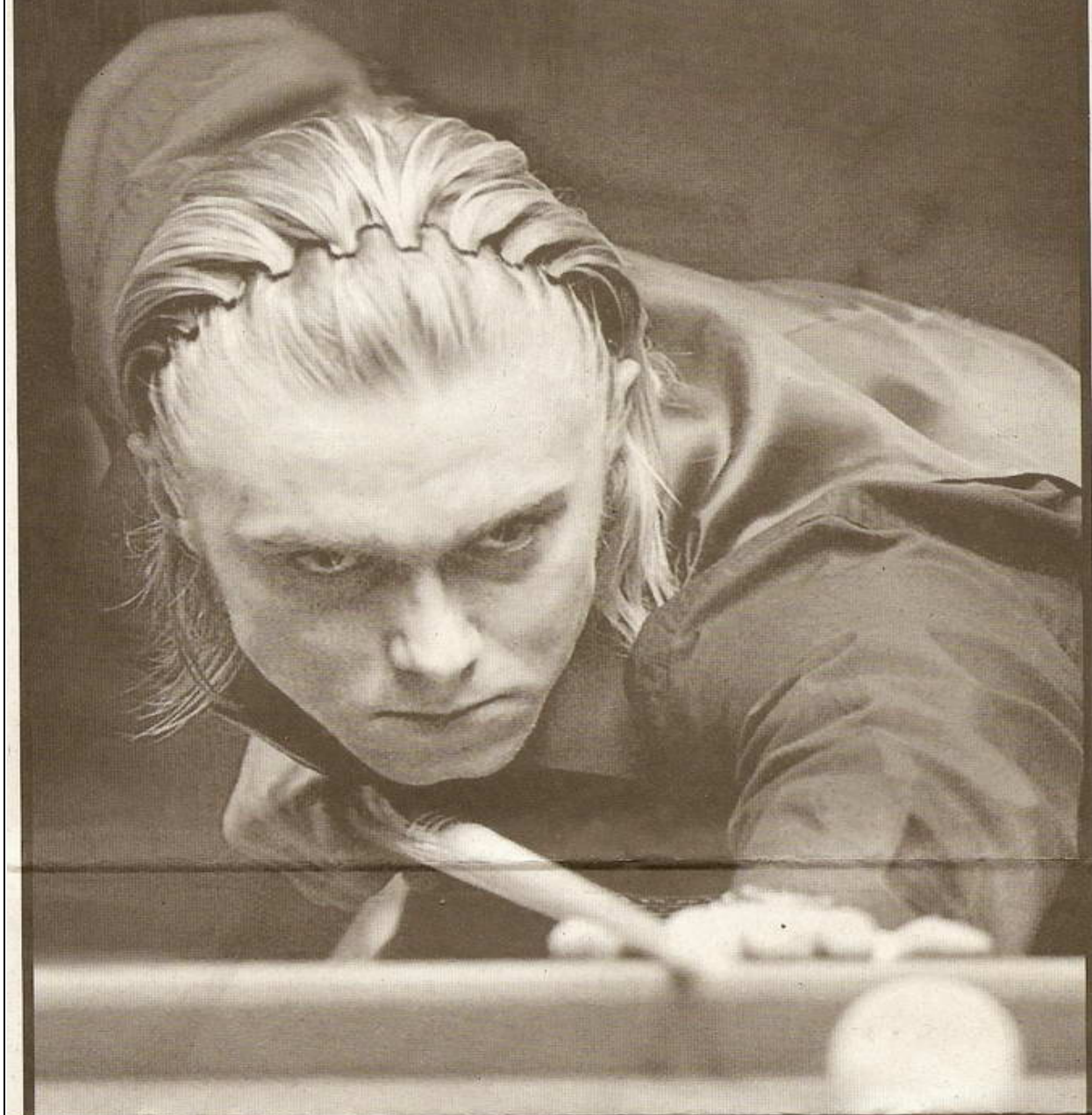
Despite the promises and pledges this time around from directors that their teams were clean, and that anti-doping programmes were working overtime, the Tour has not even reached the hard mountains and the first positive test has arrived.

Associated Press



Paul Hunter was a star in an indoor sport,  
but he will be remembered as a breath of  
fresh air, writes **Brian Viner**

# STRAIGHT SHOOTER



Since the distressing news broke on Monday evening that Paul Hunter had died from stomach cancer aged only 27, his fellow snooker stars have been queuing up to pay lavish and heartfelt tribute. One of them, Neal Foulds, pointed out the tendency to overdo the praise when someone dies, but added that in Hunter's case, it could not be overdone.

Not many sportsmen are universally popular with their peers as well as the fans, but Hunter was as close as snooker got, which was all the more remarkable given the way he was marketed, as the "Beckham of the baize".

Good-looking, charismatic, and cheekily happy to admit to having had sex with his then girlfriend Lindsey in their hotel room during a break in the final of the 2001 UK Masters – a winning formula he went on to repeat in 2002 and 2003 – he seemed like a refreshing antidote to the notion that snooker players are the unhealthily wan and flabby products of a youth misspent in dimly lit, smoke-filled clubs. When the BBC revived its series *Superstars*, Hunter was the token snooker player invited to take part. He represented vitality and virility. And now, unbelievably, Lindsey is his widow.

When famous people die young, it is usually the result of snorting too much or living too fast. Their deaths might shake us but they don't make us confront our own mortality, because we don't live like that. But if cancer can cut down a seemingly gilded guy like Hunter, five days before his 28th birthday, then we are reminded that it can pounce on any of us at any time. He didn't die because of the way he had lived, he just died, before he even had the chance to see his baby daughter walk or talk. Sporting stardom can end in some pretty cruel and abrupt ways, but it's not supposed to end like that.

For me, the news of Hunter's death was especially poignant, because I interviewed him – in March last year – on the morning that he consulted his doctor for the first time, after suffering from sharp stomach pains. Just before I arrived at the Syngenta Sports and Fitness Club in Huddersfield, where he practised, my mobile phone buzzed. It was Hunter's manager, Brandon Parker, to say that Paul would be at least an hour late because he had an urgent appointment in Leeds with his GP. I told Parker that maybe we should rearrange the interview. "No, Paul knows you've come a long way to see him," he said. "He doesn't want to let you down. He'll drive over after the appointment."

Sporting stardom's not supposed to be like that, either. I've known only moderately famous Premiership footballers to cancel or cut short interviews for some almost comically insubstantial reasons – not quite because they've broken a fingernail but not far short. And a fortnight ago I was offered an interview with a genuinely celebrated England footballer, as long as I agreed to two conditions: one, that the article should not appear in the sports pages but "nearer the front of the paper" because X was being "rebranded", and two, that X would have the right to see the copy before publication, and order changes as he saw fit. That's the sporting universe in which we operate. Therefore it's no paradox to say that Hunter, a man who operated indoors, was a breath of fresh air.

He turned up in a flashy Mercedes that day in Huddersfield, not far from the hos-

pice in which he died on Monday, and told me that appendicitis was the worst-case explanation for his stomach pains. He was worried that he might need an operation. "I said to the doctor that it really hurts when I breathe in," he said. "He felt around on the side that hurts and said, 'That's your appendix'. We shall see. I've heard that if you do have 'em out you're not allowed to drive for six weeks. That's no good for me. I have to drive out here every day to practise."

At the time, Hunter was the fourth-best snooker player in the world, with the trappings to prove it. He had the Merc, and another Merc for the wife, and an unmortgaged, detached house with its own bar. But he practised at the Syngenta, which had been the nearby ICI factory's social club, not because it was smarter than his previous place of practice, Guiseley Conservative Club, but because it was seedier. The Con Club didn't have the beery atmosphere he liked, or enough of the types who filled the Syngenta: rough, sharp-witted, mostly unemployed blokes who never treated him differently just because he was a star, and probably didn't treat him differently just because he had cancer. That was how he liked it.

He laughed when I ventured that you could take the boy out of the Leeds council estate, but not the Leeds council estate out of the boy. It was true, he said. He was blissfully politically incorrect.

He thought that snooker tournaments should have boxing-style "dolly-birds" holding up cards to announce what frame it was. "Not topless, like," he added. "Maybe in bikinis."

And when we talked about the groupies who followed him round from venue to venue, he said, warmly: "I've had a few of them following me everywhere for five or six years now. I sometimes wish they could be a bit better-looking, like, but they're really nice people. Anyway, I'm taken."

He certainly was. And no, he said, he didn't mind in the slightest me bringing up for the millionth time the invigorating sex session during the 2001 Masters.

"It will never leave me, but it's a nice thing to talk about. I enjoyed all the fuss, to be honest. And we did it the next two times. The year after I was 5-0 down and came back to win 10-9, and last year

against Ronnie [O'Sullivan] I was 6-1 and 7-2 down and still won. In the breaks, we did exactly the same. Well, different positions, like. I can't explain why it helped. I suppose it relaxed me, made me feel happy about myself. You've still got to get out there and pot the balls, though. I did take her to Malta a few months ago and it didn't work there."

I wrote last year that Hunter's somewhat unreconstructed attitude to women might gnaw at the sensibilities of some readers, but that it was impossible not to like him, for he was so disarmingly friendly and candid.

And funny. He thought it a huge joke that he'd been picked to take part in *Superstars*, and I told him that every snooker generation has a pin-up, with the accompanying misconception that he might also be a bit of an athlete. In *Superstars* years ago it was Tony Knowles struggling with the squat thrusts.

"Aye," he said, smiling. "There were 39 athletes and me. There was only me who smoked, only me who drank. The bike ride was a nightmare, 800 metres uphill. Obviously I came last, and when I got off my bike, I tried to walk but couldn't. I just fell on the floor and someone came over and gave me a San Miguel and put a fag in my mouth. I remember [the runner] Jamie Baulch saying to me one morning, 'I shouldn't have had that glass of wine' last night, and I'm thinking, 'Jesus, I shouldn't have had them three jugs of sangria'. I had to race against him in the 800m and he's like, 'I'm not looking forward to this'. I'm thinking, 'You're a f\*\*\*\*\* runner aren't you? I never even run to the end of my driveway'."

Both laughing, we then walked over to Hunter's table, the table the Syngenta kept exclusively for him, especially heated to make it faster. He set up various practice shots and, on his own turf, he suddenly looked like a man who could do anything. What he wanted to do most, as a Yorkshireman as well as a snooker player, was win the world championship at the Crucible in Sheffield. Even as a child he had dreamt about it. I expect his priorities changed over the past 18 months. But it is unspeakably sad that he will never again get the chance to try.

*The Independent*

**"I've had a few of them following me everywhere for five or six years now. I sometimes wish they could be a bit better-looking, but they're really nice people. Anyway, I'm taken"**

Paul Hunter  
On his groupies

Paul Hunter, whose looks and celebrity lifestyle earned him the nickname "Beckham of the Baize", died of cancer aged 27. Photos: AP

