

China's Wang breaks 30:00 in women's 10,000



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Wang Junxia breaks the record in the women's 10,000-meter run by 42 seconds in Beijing.

Mercury News Wire Services

BEIJING — Breaking the 30-minute barrier in the women's 10,000-meter run, Wang Junxia of China shattered the record in the event by 42 seconds Wednesday with a time of 29 minutes, 31.78 seconds.

As she broke the record of 30:13.74 set by Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway on July 5, 1986, Wang, 20, beat her own previous personal best, recorded last month at the world championships at Stuttgart, Germany, by more than a minute.

Thus two key track barriers have been broken in less than a week. Noureddine Morceli of Algeria broke the 3:45 barrier in the mile last week, breaking

the record by nearly two seconds with a time of 3:44.39.

Earlier this summer, Kenya's Yobes Ondieki became the first to break 27 minutes in the men's 10,000, with a world record 26:58.38.

The improvement of Chinese athletes, especially females, has been sudden and has raised suspicions of drug use. Chinese sports officials say the success is the result of hard training at altitude.

But Lynn Jennings, the 1992 Olympic bronze medalist in the event, said Wang's rapid improvement defied credibility. Distance running "all seems polluted to me now," Jennings said in Newmarket, N.H.

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Chinese runner sets another record

Mercury News Wire Services

Chinese distance runner Wang Junxia sliced six seconds off the 3,000-meter mark she set Sunday in winning the event in China's national games in Beijing on Monday.

Wang's time of 8 minutes, 6.11 seconds represented her third world record in six days and the fourth for Chinese women runners coached by Ma Junren in the games.

Wang slashed 42 seconds off the 10,000 record Wednesday, and teammate Qu Yunxia broke the 1,500 record Saturday. With a time of 8:12.19, Wang was first among five runners who broke the previous 3,000 mark in Sunday's heats.

Wang, 20, left her competition far behind Monday as she sprinted the final lap before a cheering crowd. She was mobbed by members of the media

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after crossing the finish line.

Qu also broke Wang's previous record with a time of 8:12.18.

Wang is confident she can continue to lower her times.

"I believe at the next competition, at the World Cup, I can definitely break more records," Wang said.

The success of the Chinese runners has led to speculation about the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Tom McNab, a former coach of the British national team, said China's performance "tends to echo what happened in Eastern Europe over the last 25 years where the women's performances over a whole range of events were always way ahead of the improvement of performances in men."



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Michael Johnson celebrates his victory in the 200 meters in New Delhi, India.

TRACK AND FIELD: Michael Johnson easily won the 200 meters on the opening day of an international meet in New Delhi, India. Johnson clocked 20.38 seconds to set a meet record in the opening race of the two-day competition.

HOCKEY: Goaltender Patrick Roy, who led the Montreal Canadiens to the Stanley Cup in June, signed a four-year contract worth \$16 million. "The most important thing is to have the chance to finish my career in Montreal," said Roy, 27. The contract makes Roy the third-highest-paid player

in the NHL behind Pittsburgh's Mario Lemieux and Philadelphia's Eric Lindros.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL: Former Nevada-Las Vegas coach Jerry Tarkanian is suing university officials, alleging they conspired with NCAA investigators to ruin his college career. The suit, filed Friday in Las Vegas, named UNLV President Bob Maxson, legal counsel Brad Boone and ex-athletic director Dennis Finck as defendants. Also named were UNLV, the university system and nine members of the Board of Regents. The NCAA, mentioned prominently in the suit, is not a defendant. The suit seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages. Tarkanian alleges university officials breached his employment contract and 1991 resignation agreement, harmed lucrative contracts he held outside the university, hurt his overall economic well-being and libeled him. Maxson said he had not seen the lawsuit, and "only heard about it from the press. It always bothers me to have to spend time on frivolous issues. But I'm not concerned about a suit because there's nothing to be concerned about."

MISCELLANY: Stacey Juhl scored at 9:13 of overtime as the Cal women's soccer team defeated Oregon State 1-0 in a Pacific 10 Conference game in Berkeley. . . . In Bucharest, Romania, eighth-seeded Andrei Cherkasov defeated Mikael Tillstroem 6-3, 6-0 in a first-round match at the Romanian Open, the country's first major tennis tournament.

Track and field, soccer, tennis results in Scoreboard, Page 8F.

OFF THE WALL

Crossing the line

If there's a pro football team in North Carolina, it will play its first season in South Carolina.

Clemson's Memorial Stadium, nicknamed "De Valley," was chosen Monday as the first-year home for proposed NFL franchise in Charlotte, N.C. A new stadium in downtown Charlotte won't be completed until 1996, a year after the team's first season.

NFL owners will pick two expansion teams at meeting in Chicago from Oct. 26-28.

Mike McCormack, general manager for the proposed team, said a visit to the stadium helped him overcome "the perception that Clemson was way off the woods."

But fans from Charlotte can look forward to a one-way trip of 122 miles to see their team play.

Quote of the day

Cowboys defensive end Charles Haley, who embedded his helmet into a wall in the dressing room, then passed judgment on teammate Derrick Lassic, who is filling in for unsigned All-Pro Emmitt Smith: "We'll never win with a rookie running back."

Compiled from Mercury News wire services.

Chinese women beat 3,000 world record

All coached by man
outing worm potion

Mercury News Staff and Wire Reports

Wang Junxia chopped 10 seconds off the 3,000-meter world record Sunday in China's national games in Beijing with a time of 8 minutes, 12.19 seconds.

It was the third time in five days a women's world track record had been shattered by a Chinese athlete. Wang, 20, smashed the 10,000-meter mark by 42 seconds Wednesday. Then Saturday, **Yunxia** set a record in the 5,000, barely ahead of Wang, who also broke the old world record. In effect, Wang broke three world records within five days, an astounding feat in the history of track.

Official results show five Chinese runners on Sunday broke the 3,000-meter world record of 22.62 set nine years ago by **Tatjana Kazankina** of the former Soviet Union. Qu finished just behind Wang in 8:12.27 in Sunday's second heat. More records could fall in today's 3,000 finals.

All five women are from Liaoning province, where coach **Ma Zunren** has been working miracles with his athletes. Using strange techniques and potions, Ma coaches 18 women from Liaoning. Most are peasants, Ma says, who can endure rigorous training.

The unprecedented success of the Chinese runners has led to speculation they use performance-enhancing drugs.

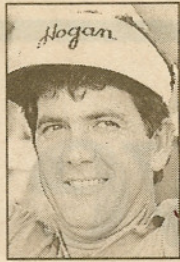
"This kind of talk makes me really angry," Wang said Saturday. Both she and Qu swore they had never taken such drugs.

Ma refused to divulge the secret to his training, saying he planned to have it patented. He did show a box of the potion made from the "dong qiong sya

SPORTS DIGEST



Holtz



Frost

cao" worm. The worm, whose name means "winter-bug-summer-grass," lives in the summer at high altitudes. It dies in the winter and is collected by peasants, who sell the worms to herbal medicine markets.

Ma said his runners — called "Ma's Army" — train at least 26 miles a day in high altitude while applying running theories of the sika deer and ostrich.

HOLTZ FIRES BACK: Notre Dame football coach **Lou Holtz** defended himself and the university Sunday against allegations in a new book, marking the first time he has commented on the book since its contents became public two weeks ago. During an interview on CNN's "Coaches Corner," Holtz said, "Look at our graduation rate, look at our drug-testing program, look at the people who have played at Notre Dame and the response that they have had. Look at the way our football players play. Go talk to the millions of people, there are thousands of them, who have done well." The book, "Under the Tarnished Dome: How Notre Dame Betrayed its Ideals for Football Glory," uses interviews with former Notre Dame players to accuse Holtz of encouraging steroid use and abusing players.

GOLF: **David Frost**, given an opening by the back-nine collapse of **Brad Bryant**, two-putted for birdie on the final hole to win the Canadian Open in Oakville, Ontario, by a stroke over **Fred Couples**. Frost, 34, scored his seventh PGA Tour victory, closing with a 4-under-par 68 for a 279 total. Bryant, 38 and seeking the first victory of his 16-season career, had a three-stroke lead going to the back nine, but shot a 41 to close with a 74. . . . **Donna Andrews** came from four shots back in the final five holes to win an LPGA tournament in Portland, Ore., for her first tour victory. For the second straight year, **Tina Barrett** missed a par putt on the final hole and failed to advance to a playoff.

HOCKEY: The Sharks begin a four-team intrasquad tournament during training camp at the Cow Palace today. Scrimmages run from 5 to 8:30 p.m. and are free to the public. Defensemen **Shawn Cronin** and **Tom Pederson** aren't expected to skate because of injuries. Cronin has a sprained right knee and Pederson a broken right wrist.

COLLEGE SOCCER: **Bo Hansen** had a goal and an assist as Wisconsin-Green Bay defeated

Stanford 2-0 to win a men's tournament in San Francisco. Loyola College of Maryland beat host USF 1-0 in the other game. . . . Los Angeles, **Grant Schick** and **Trevor Kelly** scored in the second half as the Santa Clara men beat Loyola Marymount 2-0 in West Coast Conference opener. Santa Clara (1-1-1 overall) limited Loyola to one shot. . . . In Santa Clara, the Broncos women opened WCC play with a win over freshmen forwards **Mikka Jensen** and **Erin Martinez** combined for three goals and three assists in a 6-1 victory over San Diego.

MISCELLANY: Boston Celtic star **Reggie Lewis**, who died from a heart defect July 27, reportedly was born with a heart murmur and his family had a history of cardiac illness. The Boston Globe reported that Lewis suffered five or six dizzy spells the four months before an early collapse April 29 on the basketball court, and had a run of extra heartbeats while he was resting in the hospital. . . . Uruguay kept its World Cup hopes alive with a 2-1 victory against Bolivia in a key South American qualifying game in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Golf and soccer results in Scorebook Page 12C.

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