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Usain Bolt (center), Yohan Blake (left) and Warren Weir, all from Jamaica, celebrate their medals in the men's 200m final at the London Olympics on Thursday. Bolt won gold, Blake silver and Weir bronze.

EXCLUSIVE |
THOMAS BACH



Thomas Bach is vice-president of the International Olympic Committee.

China a model for Olympics, IOC says

By ZHANG HAIZHOU
in London
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If memories were awarded medals, Thomas Bach would give China a gold medal every time.

Bach, vice-president of the International Olympic Committee and a 1976 Olympic fencing gold medalist, finished his career in Shanghai in 1980. He was in China at the time, rather than defending his medal, because of a boycott, by some countries, of the Moscow Olympics.

"Our Olympic committee (the West Germany) voted for a boycott. I was representing the athletes and wanted to take part in the Games. We lost the battle. Now everyone realizes that it was absolutely useless. It did not make one bit of difference at all," Bach, 58, said.

As "a kind of compensation", Bach said the national team had a two-week tour of China and took part in competitions against fencers in Beijing, Hangzhou, Kunming and Shanghai.

"I'm happy to report that I won the last match." It happened to be the last of his career.

Sitting in a Park Lane cafe 32 years later, Bach recalled Olympic stories and shared his thoughts on the London Games.

He also played down "speculation" he is the front-runner to succeed current IOC President Jacques Rogge in 2013.

SEE "SPORTS" PAGE 2

BOLT AT THE DOUBLE

Jamaican sprint star creates history by winning 100m and 200m in consecutive Olympics

By AGENCIES in London

Usain Bolt made history on Thursday when the Jamaican successfully defended his Olympic 200m crown to claim an unprecedented second successive sprint double.

Bolt, who retained his 100m title on Saturday, crossed the line in 19.32sec to win in front of a delirious sellout 80,000 crowd at Olympic Stadium.

The 25-year-old's victory meant he bettered the record of US track legend Carl Lewis, who won three golds and a sil-

ver in the sprints at the 1984 and 1988 Games.

It was also the first time two individual track titles were successfully defended at successive Games since Finland's Lasse Viren won the 5000m and 10,000m in the Munich and Montreal Games in 1972 and 1976.

Bolt led a Jamaican clean sweep of the podium, with training partner Yohan Blake taking silver in 19.44 sec and Warren Weir claiming a bronze in 19.84 sec.

Running in lane seven, Bolt was up on Weir outside him

within five paces after an explosive start.

As he rounded the bend, Blake briefly threatened from lane four, but teeth clenched and at full tilt, Bolt had enough to slow down a full 10 m from the line, raising his finger to his lips as he did so.

Meanwhile, Kenya's David Rudisha stormed to 800m gold in a world-record time on Thursday to cap four years of dominance in the two-lap event with a brilliant run.

The world champion scorched around the Olympic

Stadium in 1 min 40.91 sec to beat the mark of 1.41.01 he set two years ago in Italy.

"I had no doubt about winning but I was waiting for perfect conditions to break the record," the 23-year-old said.

"I am happy. I've waited for this moment for a long time. To come here and get a world record is unbelievable."

Nijel Amos of Botswana won silver in 1.41.73 to claim his country's first Olympic medal and bronze went to Timothy Kitum of Kenya in 1.42.53.

All but one of the eight ath-

letes in the field ran personal bests and the time run by Britain's Andrew Osagie, who was last to cross the line, would have been good enough for gold at the past three Games.

"Those kind of times would get a medal in any other championships, but David is on such good form," Osagie said. "It was an honor to be in that race."

The last runner in the field to set himself for the start, Rudisha hit the front halfway through the back straight and after that, with his smooth loping stride eating up the track, it was a

straight run against the clock.

He pushed again after taking the bell in 49.28 sec and came into the home straight 10 m clear of teenager Amos, finding just enough in the tank to take him over the line a tenth of a second inside his own record.

Dubbed the "Pride of Africa" after winning the world junior title in 2006, Rudisha missed the Beijing Olympics through injury and was boxed in during the semifinals at the 2009 World Championships.

AFP-REUTERS



Gold medalist Chen Ruolin from China competes during the women's 10m platform diving final at the Aquatics Centre in Olympic Park on Thursday.

Chen bolsters China's diving power with a victory in 10m platform

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
in London

Chen Ruolin of China won the women's 10m platform title at the London Olympics on Thursday night, easily defending her title from Beijing by a 55.80-point margin.

Chen totaled 422.30 points during the five-dive final. She earlier won gold in the 10m synchronized and swept the platform events for the second consecutive Games.

Chen was dominant through all three rounds of the competition. She finished the morning

semifinal with a 47.35-point lead, although scores from the earlier rounds didn't carry over.

Chen earned 9.0s for her last dive, a back 2 1/2 somersault with 1 1/2 twists pike. She got out of the pool, took her traditional bow, and walked away without waiting for her scores.

When Chen was introduced as the Olympic champion, she walked around the podium and shook hands with the other medalists before taking the top position.

China has won six of seven diving gold medals so far with only the men's platform remaining. The diving superpower was upset by Russia in the men's 3m

springboard, spoiling its bid to sweep all eight diving gold medals in London.

Brittany Broben, a 16-year-old from Australia competing in her first Olympics, took the silver at 366.50. She jumped up and down and ran to hug her coach after realizing she had earned a medal.

Pandelela Pamg of Malaysia won the bronze at 359.20 for her country's first Olympic medal in diving.

Pamg has been busy in London. She took eighth in 3m springboard synchro and seventh in 10m synchro.

Pamg didn't advance out of the 10m preliminaries four

years ago in Beijing. At the 2009 world meet, she and her partner won bronze in the synchro event, becoming the first Malaysians to win a world medal.

Melissa Wu of Australia finished fourth at 358.10.

Chen's teammate, Hu Yudan, rallied from 12th after four dives to finish ninth. The 16-year-old, who is 61 days younger than Broben, finished second at last year's World Championships.

Paola Espinosa was third after four dives, but she botched her final dive to fall out of medal contention after earning silver in 10m synchro at her third Olympics.

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