



Former England and Surrey batter Graham Thorpe has died aged 55 after battling a "serious illness" since 2022...



USA's Noah Lyles won gold in the 100m with a time of 9.79s on Saturday | AFP/AP

NOAH LYLES, REMEMBER THE NAME

The fastest man on earth conquered the most glamorous event, 100m sprint, by the barest of margins on Sunday night, but he is not done with Paris Summer Games just yet

ALL the overhead shots and race replays tell the same story. Noah Lyles only led one time during his Olympic 100-metre sprint for the ages: at the finish line.

There's a good argument that the rest of his stay at these Paris Games won't be anywhere near as nip-and-tuck. With the Olympics still a buzz over his .005-second victory in the 100, Lyles didn't have much time to rest before moving to his next event. He is a heavy favorite in the 200 metres, his better race, and a race he has not lost since the Olympic final in Tokyo three years ago, where he finished third. Opening heats for the 200 were set for Monday night.

Lyles' willingness — make that, desire

to be the front man for a sport that yearns for new fans feels like a game-changer to Seb Coe, the World Athletics president who called Sunday's race "if not perfect, about as close to perfect as you can get. If I'm wearing a promoter's hat, then him winning last night was important, because he's now creating a narrative that's heading us back into Usain Bolt territory," Coe said. "That's hugely important."

Lyles not shy about what he wants from all this. In a typically candid and engaging post-race news conference, Lyles made no secret that he is in this to promote his sport, but also wants more. He has been a front man for the popular Netflix documentary "SPRINT," and has brought a sense of fashion

back to the track, making "walk-ins" a thing and bedazzling his hair with white pearls on race day. Now, he's got a message for his shoe sponsor, Adidas. "I want my own shoe," he said. "I want my own trainer. I'm dead serious. I want a sneaker. There ain't no money in spikes, there's money in sneakers. I feel like for how many medals we bring back and the notoriety we get, the fact that hasn't happened, that's crazy for me. I feel like that needs to happen."

The 100m was the biggest hurdle for Lyles to overcome. It is not his best race, and it's the one he took up shortly after Tokyo with the goal of becoming more than a mere sprinter, but a larger-than-life personality, both on and off the track. Lyles also figures to feature prominently in the men's 4x100 relay but that's anything but a gimme. Riddled with poor work with the baton, a lack of

consistent training habits, a doping positive and the constant spectre of trying to beat Bolt, the U.S. has not won, and kept, a single Olympic medal in this event since 2004. It hasn't captured gold since 2000. The relay is a bigger threat to Lyles' quest to win three gold medals, the way Bolt did in all three of his appearances, than the 200 metres. Lyles figures to get his biggest challenge in the 200m from Kenny Bednarek, who finished ahead of Lyles in Tokyo and, more recently, pushed him at a fast Olympic trials that Lyles won in 19.53s.

Botswana's Letsile Tobago, American Erryrion Knighton and defending champion Andre De Grasse are also in the mix. One interesting wager would be whether Lyles has more of a chance of losing the race or lowering his American record of 19.31s. Bolt's world record is 19.19s. AP



T20 WC: ICC 'closely monitoring' political turmoil in Bangladesh

GOMESH S @Chennai

WITH Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigning following the ongoing turmoil in the country and fleeing the nation on Monday, there are questions over the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup which is scheduled to be played there in October.

Bangladesh is in the middle of a political crisis with students and people taking to the streets protesting against the government over a controversial job quota scheme. The scheme provided 30 percent reservations in civil services to families of veterans of the 1971 independence war.

Students took to the streets last month, protesting against the scheme and the situation got worse with more than a hundred people reportedly

killed in the weeks since.

According to reports, Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman said that an interim government is taking over the responsibilities after the PM resigned. With uncertainty over what lies ahead for the country and the government, questions arise whether the upcoming women's T20 World Cup, which is set to be played in Dhaka and Sylhet from October 3-20, will go ahead as planned.

The International Cricket Council, however, has not taken any decision yet and is closely monitoring the situation. "The ICC is closely monitoring developments in coordination with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), their security agencies and our own

independent security consultants. Our priority is the safety and well-being of all participants," an ICC spokesperson told this daily.

The issue was even discussed at length during the ICC Annual General Meeting that happened in Sri Lanka last month. The last women's game to be played in Bangladesh was when Australia toured the country in April and beat Bangladesh 3-0 in both ODIs and T20Is series. The upcoming World Cup will see ten teams compete for the trophy in two groups. India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Australia are in Group A while England, South Africa, West Indies, Scotland and hosts Bangladesh are in the other group.



Five-Test series challenge will be different: McGrath

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

AUSTRALIAN pace legend Glenn McGrath who is in the city and, along with M Senthilnathan, will be training budding fast bowlers at the MRF Pace Foundation is pleased with the fact that India will play a five-Test series Down Under later this year. He insists that Australia will be keen to win the series this time around. He adds that India have the experience of performing well in Australia in the last couple of occasions, but since it is a five-Test series things may be different this time around.

"India have won the last two series. So it's now up to Australia now (turn to win). It used to be a place India would come

to and Australia would dominate. Similar to when Australia came here, India would dominate. But I think India backed themselves. They found a way, and they've done well in the last few series. So yeah, I think it's good to see five tests, especially when everything's focused around T20 cricket these days," said McGrath who is in Chennai for his periodical coaching stint. "A five Test series is a little different. Then you have to sort of get through that, the workload, everything. So, yeah, it's going to be a good series. I think Australia will be keen to come out and play well, start well, because this is a series they should win, and they want to win, especially after losing the last two," he said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Karthik appointed SA20 league ambassador

JOHANNESBURG: Former India keeper-batter Dinesh Karthik was appointed the league ambassador of the SA20 League. "The league has been electric in the first two seasons with some of the world's best players on show and exciting young talent putting up their hands on the global stage," Karthik said in a release.

Dutch Xavi agrees another loan at Leipzig

LEIPZIG: Bayern Munich's hopes of signing Netherlands forward Xavi Simons have been shelved for now with the player agreeing to extend his loan at Leipzig from Paris Saint-Germain for another season. "Speculation surrounding Xavi's future can finally be put to rest," Leipzig said on its website Monday.

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