

Palau Olympians set Micronesian records

By Sally Soalablai

WHILE they did not exactly beat the world's best, Palau's athletes competing for the glory of the Republic at the 27th Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia have accomplished things they and their countrymen can certainly be proud about.

Last September 21st, young Anlloyd Samuel placed 3rd out of eight in his swimming heat for the 50m freestyle. Aquaman Anlloyd was a bit nervous before the event but was able to leave the tension behind as he churned the Olympic pool waters for all he was worth. He ranks at number 130 in the world in the 50m freestyle and Palauans should be justifiably proud of him.

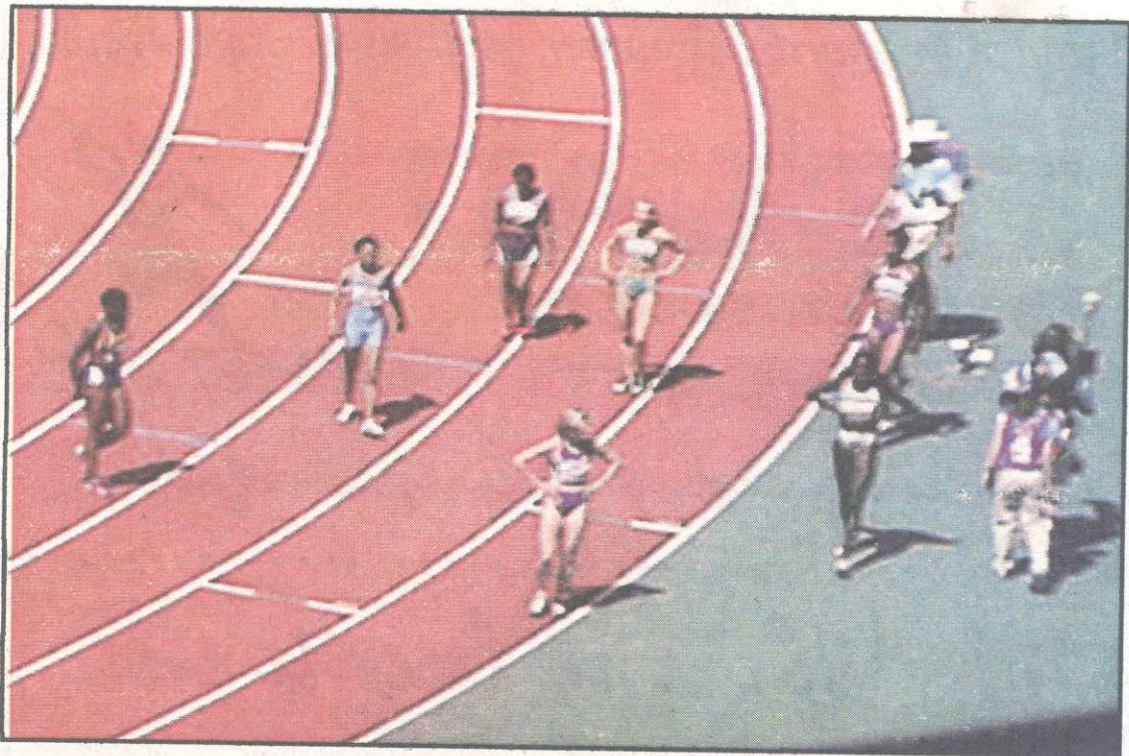
The following day, Christopher Silas Adolph, sporting a bright blue and

yellow-colored hair job to match his Team Palau colors, raced in the 100m sprint in Athletics. Speedy Silas, the fastest man in Palau, established the national record for the 100m sprint for Palau, as it is the country's first year at the Olympics. He was clocked at 11:01 seconds, not comparable to world or Olympic records, but far ahead of his competitors from the Oceania region. His time was faster than the sprinters from Guam, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, and Tonga.

Following in Silas' wake was fleet-footed Peoria Koshiba, as she competed in the 100m sprint for women. Peoria's run was timed at 12:66 seconds, not as fast as her personal best of 12:42 seconds, but way ahead of the

field for island countries in Oceania, including the FSM sprinter who came in at 13:69 seconds. Peoria also established the national record for Palau in her event.

Peoria's race wrapped up the competition events for the Republic of Palau. Chef de Mission Bill Keldermans expressed his satisfaction on the performance of Palau's first athletes to the Olympics: "These young people have been given the opportunity to compete with the likes of Marion Jones and Maurice Green in track, and Alexander Popov in swimming." Added Keldermans glowingly: "Now they can reach that much higher for their goals knowing they have raced against the best the world has to offer."#



MICRONESIAN RECORD. Fleet-footed Peoria Koshiba of Team Palau warms down after setting a Micronesian record of 12:66 in the 100m sprint for woman at the 27th Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.