

Unit 11

Sports News

What Is Sports News?

Sports news is in the sports section of a newspaper in which the sportswriter reports the scenes of sports, tournaments and games such as athletics, football, baseball, basketball, volleyball, handball, softball, tennis table tennis, boxing, swimming, gymnastics, archery, fencing, golf, squash, shooting, rowing, rugby football, American football, hockey, billiards and snooker, wrestling, bowling, canoeing, cycling, equestrian events, taekwando, judo, sepak takraw, weightlifting, yachting, and Muay Thai.

The Styles of Sports Writing

Similar to other types of news stories, a sports news story consists of the headline, lead and body. The difference lies, however, in its use of precise, concise, lively, attractive and informal language because some critics refer to the sports department as the toy department of newspapers.’ In the past, sports writers were fond of using flowery prose, cliché’s, (such as *‘Bang the apple’*) but in general today’s sports pages are filled with better, more balanced writing than ever before.’

¹ Itule, Bruce D. and Douglas A. Anderson, *News Writing and Reporting for Today’s Media*, 3rd ed., New York: MC Graw-Hill, 1994, p.46 1.

² Itule, p. 463.

Some of today's best sports writing certainly includes valuable statistical information and essential ingredients such as who won, what the score was, and who starred.' In other words, the language of sports writing should be plain and correct, for example, call it the football, not the pigskin, kick or throw the ball, not toe the ball.

Sports Vocabulary

The following is devoted to sports vocabulary illustrated with examples for learners at the university level.

to win

Ramkhamhaeng football team **won** the National Football Championship last week.

Thailand expects to **win** ten gold medals in the 13th Asian Games.

to beat

The Atlanta Braves **beat** the Pittsburgh Pirates 1-0.

China beat Japan by the wide margin of 11-1.

Becky **was beaten** in straight sets in Stockholm Open.

³ Itule, p. 464.

to beat someone by TKO	Muangchai beat Jimenez by technical knockout.
to beat someone by a knockout	He beat his opponent by a knockout.
to lose	The Thai football team lost to the Burmese team 0-1 in the 6 th Asian Games.
to trash	The Air Force Team trashed the Navy Team 3-1 yesterday and won the National Football Cup.
to defeat	Pakistan defeats India by 72 runs to emerge champs. Devils turn on power to defeat Penguins.
to be defeated	The Penguins were defeated yesterday.
to collect a number of gold /silver/ bronze medals	The Thai athletes collected the highest number of gold medals .
to score	Bob Kudelski scored three goals.

to sink

Germany sink Wales.

to down

England *down* Turkey.

to triumph

India and the Soviet Union *triumphed* in men's Olympic hockey semifinals here yesterday and will meet in tomorrow's final.

to hit

Chula *hit* Thammasat with 2 quick goals in their 25th Traditional Football Match yesterday.

to retain

Peter *retained* his title at the Canadian Open Squash last Tuesday.

to compete

James Wattana *will compete* with Duck Mouth Joy to win the World Snooker Championship to be held in London Snooker Club next month.

to qualify

The RU volleyball team *beat the* AU team to *qualify* for the last final match with TU team tomorrow.

to love	She won the game six love (6.0). She was leading forty love (40.0) in the third set.
to punch	Amateur Muay Thai uses <i>punches</i> , and <i>footwork</i> not <i>jabs</i> , <i>blows</i> and <i>shots</i> . Malaysiapunched the ball into the net to win the game.
to salvage	Italy <i>salvaged</i> a 2-2 <i>draw</i> with Chile yesterday.
to rob of	Bulgaria cruelly <i>robbed</i> them of a place qualifying for the final match.
to draw	The result of the game <i>was</i> a <i>draw</i> .
to televise live	The final football match <i>will be televised live</i> by Thai Pool TV.
to tie	The game ends in a tie. The game is <i>tie</i> .
to break a record	Fu Jin-Ming planned to <i>break</i> the swimming championship <i>record</i> .

More Related Vocabulary:

People: Athlete, champion, winner, star, sportsman, sportsmanship, first runner-up, second runner-up, contestant, competitor, gymnast, acrobat, medalist, tennis player, **footballer**, coach, runner, walker, trainer, swimmer, boxer, judge, referee, linesman, the organizing committee, football fans, host nation.

Places: Stadium, tiers, **Rajamangala** National Stadium, sports venue, Sports Authority of Thailand, Football Thai Building, the Bangkok Metropolitan Youth Center, sports complex, Thammasat Sports Complex, velodrome, Thammasat Aquatic Center, athletics stadium, the Athletes Village, football field.

Actions: Tournament, contest, competition, championship, match, round, the final match, semifinal, acrobatics, **100-** meter dash, 4x200 m relay, 200 m freestyle relay, 100 m butterfly, 100 m breaststroke, 400 m individual medley, 3 m springboard diving, 10 m platform diving, water polo matches, marathon walk/ race, high jump, long jump, hurdle, **juvelin** throw, discus throw, weight lifting, swimming, course, track and field event, round, qualifying round, final, **1st** round, single, double, mixed-doubles, seed/ seeded, victory, triumph, loss, draw, love, nil.

Relevant Items: Gold/ silver/ bronze medals, medalist, cup, trophy, goblet, event, The King's Cup Championship, The Queen's Cup Championship, The Crown Prince's Cup Championship, The

National Championship, The World Championship, The 13th
Asian Games Track and Field Championship.

Sports News Language

The Sports Leads

1. Morrison won the **first** three rounds of the scheduled 12-round fight scoring mostly with overhand rights and jabs. **(Boxing)**
2. American David **Wheaton** *beat* compatriot Michael Chang 6-3, 7-6 yesterday to advance to the final. **(Tennis)**
3. Iran *took* the first *gold medal* at the 9th Asian Track and Field Championship yesterday as **Hamid** Sadjadi won the 3,000 meter steeple chase in eight minutes **33.89** seconds. **(Athletics)**
4. A **10-man** Bulgarian side *held-off* Paraguay in the dying minutes to come away **with** a *goalless draw* in their World Cup opener yesterday. **(Football)**
5. Veteran Mark Woodforde *stunned* Pete **Sampras** on one of the American's favorite surfaces yesterday, *scoring* a 6-3, 6-2 *victory* in the third round of the Queen's Club grasscourt Championships. **(Tennis)**
6. Former women's world No. 1 **Steffi Graf** had to *battle* for nearly two hours before *beating* Australian qualifier Renae Stabb 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 in the second round of the WTA tournament here on Wednesday. **(Tennis)**
7. Athletes in four events set *records* for the year at the **Slovnaft** Grand Prix track meet on Tuesday. **(Athletics)**

8. Thai Amateur Weightlifting Association (**Tawa**) yesterday optimistically predicted that a quarter of Thai woman lifters would *qualify* for the 2000 Sydney Olympics and at least a *gold medal* could be within reach.
(Weightlifting)
9. One of the fiercest rivalries in European football will be *rekindled* when Belgium and Holland meet in their opening Group E match today.
(Football)
10. The Buick Classic at Westchester Country Club *has a leader* other than Ernie Els for the first since 1995 as Kevin Sutherland *fired* a seven-under 64 on Thursday for a one-shot lead after the first round. **(Golf)**

Descriptive Scenes of Sports

1. The seventh King's Cup Amateur Boxing Championship is the biggest boxing festival in Asia There will be 156 boxers from 16 countries participating in the tournament.
2. The King's Cup Tennis Championship match between Thai and Chinese players will be held / will take place at the National Stadium during the 9th to 16th December. The Tennis Association of Thailand has sent a group of professional tennis players who won the Asian Tennis Championship to join in this tournament. The Chinese team to participate in the match are also professional tennis players.
3. The Amateur Boxing Association of Thailand will send two well-known boxers to participate in the 10th King's Cup Amateur Boxing

Championship to be held the 6th December at Huamark Indoor Stadium.

The tournament lasts 15 days altogether.

4. Thailand's 34-member team for the 9th Asian Track and Field Championships to be held at Merdeke Stadium in Kuala Lumpur left Bangkok yesterday, vowing to make an impression in the tough five-day competition which will feature the cream of the continent's athletics stars.

Examples of Sports Headlines

Headlines	Number of words	Type of sports
• Danai plays beyond his years to take title	8	Tennis
• Cairns scalps four to keep Lanka in check	8	Cricket
- Villeneuve attacks Shumacher	3	Motor racing
▪ Year's top marks fall at Slovakian meeting	7	Athletics
- Confident Thais set for takraw battle	6	Takraw
• Tawa (Thai Amateur Weightlifting Association) eyes gold medal at Sydney	6	Weightlifting
• France trim midfield to bolster attack	6	Football
▪ English hopes hurt by a daunting draw	7	Rugby
• Sampras slumps further with loss to Woodforde	7	Tennis
- Dutch have edge in battle of Benelux	7	Football
- Crunch time for Mexico, Korea	5	Football
▪ Scotland let Brazil off the hook	6	World Cup Football

Headlines	Number of words	Type of sports
- Bulls just a win away from their sixth title	9	Basketball
- Rusty Graf prevails in two-hour battle	7	Tennis

Activities

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the words given below.

the flames *the torch bearer* *opening*
athletes *the Rajamangala National Stadium*
gold medalist *opening ceremony* *torch*

At the of the 13th Asian Games, Somrak Khumsing, the first Thai Olympic and the will be running from the entrance of up to the Royal Box to pass the to two other who will mount the rostrum and light to signal the of the 13th Asian Games.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the words given below.

gold medals *won* *lost* *qualify*
closing ceremony *final match* *champion*
live *wide margin* *athlete match*
the National Stadium runner-up

1. **Last** year's, Air Force trashed **Chiangmai** Physical Education College 3-1 to win this year's National Youth Football Championship last night at
2. Yesterday China beat Japan by the of 11-1 in the decisive water polo Besides Yang Shun, a Chinese woman, won the 100 meter sprint (dash) as well as high jump gold medals.
3. In the 14th Asian Games, Japan has collected the highest number of Yesterday she one cycling and one fencing gold, and also four in track and field events, pushing her total count to 62 gold medals.
4. **Thai and Korean Basketball Teams will meet in the** **to win** Basketball next Friday. The final contest will be live via TV channels 5 and 9 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

5. Yesterday the Thai football team to Indonesian team **1-3** in the penalty gold contest at the Senayan Stadium and thus lost the chance to for the **final**. The color TV channel 7 will televise theand the match.

Exercise 3

Below is a list words sportswriters often substitute for “defeat.” Circle those that you believe are inappropriate in a sports story.⁴

<i>crush</i>	<i>rip</i>	<i>kill</i>	<i>ruin</i>	<i>pummel</i>
<i>destroy</i>	<i>murder</i>	<i>gouge</i>	<i>slay</i>	<i>poke</i>
<i>wreck</i>	<i>down</i>	<i>edge</i>	<i>upend</i>	<i>devastate</i>
<i>beat</i>	<i>trounce</i>	<i>bury</i>	<i>wallop</i>	<i>nail</i>
<i>rout</i>	<i>annihilate</i>	<i>clobber</i>	<i>bomb</i>	<i>upset</i>
<i>rock</i>	<i>beat up</i>	<i>punch</i>	<i>put away</i>	<i>surprise</i>

⁴ Ferguson, Donald L. and Jim Patten, *Journalism Today! Workbook*, Lincolnwood: National Textbook Company, 1993, p. 95.

Exercise 4

Put the following information into the correct order to make a good sports news story by writing **1, 2, 3,** in the space provided.

..... After Ebbe Sand and Martin had both squandered easy chances, the 30-year-old centreback powered home a header from Brian **Laudrup**'s cross in the 68th minute

..... The **Danes** had a great chance to take an 18th minute lead when Morten Weighorst climbed above the Saudi **defence** to meet a **freekick** and head the ball into the danger area. But Sand, with only the keeper to beat, prodded the ball over the bar from eight meters.

..... **Rieper header sinks Saudis**

..... Defender Marc Rieper showed his striker the way to the goal yesterday by heading Denmark to a 1-0 World Cup victory over Saudi Arabia

..... The Saudi strikers made little impression in the opening 40 minutes of the game. (Adapted from The Nation, Saturday)