

Pakistan look back at Imran Vaughan fit to play



AFP, Paarl

Captain Waqar Younis may have missed the 1992 World Cup because of injury but he hopes to use Pakistan's triumph that year as inspiration to rescue his team's faltering 2003 campaign.

Pakistan play the Netherlands here at Boland Park on Tuesday, knowing they need to win their remaining three Pool A matches to reach the Super Six phase of the World Cup.

After defeats against Australia and England, Pakistan are languishing in fifth place in their group, with Australia, England and India all two wins ahead of them.

After the Dutch match, Pakistan have to play India at Centurion Saturday and Zimbabwe in Bulawayo on March 4.

"All these three games are crucial," said Waqar.

"It's a World Cup. In 1992 we lost the three of the first five games and we came back to win."

Eleven years ago, Pakistan were lucky to escape a fourth defeat when they were bowled out for 74 by England and achieved a no-result because of rain.

Skipper Imran Khan famously exhorted his players to "attack, attack, attack" and they won three successive matches to scrape into the semifinals, then won twice more to lift the trophy after the final against England in Melbourne.

Asked whether he could emulate Imran, Waqar admitted: "I don't

FORM GUIDE Pakistan v Netherlands

AFP, Paarl

Form guide for Pakistan and Netherlands ahead of their World Cup Group A game at Boland Park here on Tuesday:

Pakistan (won 4 lost 6)	
Feb 22 2003	lost to England by 112 runs
Feb 16 2003	beat Namibia by 171 runs
Feb 11 2003	lost to Australia by 82 runs
Dec 18 2002	lost to South Africa by 34 runs
Dec 16 2002	lost to South Africa by 9 wickets
Dec 13 2002	lost to South Africa by 62 runs
Dec 11 2002	beat South Africa by 182 runs
Dec 8 2002	lost to South Africa by 132 runs
Dec 1 2002	beat Zimbabwe by 70 runs
Nov 30 2002	beat Zimbabwe by 8 wickets

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know how he did it because I wasn't there but I'm going to give it my best shot."

What is certain is that the Dutch can expect no mercy on the ground where Canada were bowled out for a world record low of 36 by Sri Lanka last Wednesday.

Waqar admitted that the team's batting had been disappointing but cautioned that major changes were unlikely.

"We don't have much choice. We have 15 here and they are the best we've got. They are all playing reasonably well although Inzy (Inzamamul Haq) is lacking a bit of form."

Inzamam, who went to the 1992

World Cup as an unheralded 21-year-old and emerged as one of Pakistan's stars after a match-winning 60 off 37 balls in the semifinal against New Zealand, has been dismissed for 6, 4 and 0 in the 2003 tournament.

The Dutch part-timers do not pose a major threat but they put up spirited performances in their defeats against India, England and Australia.

All-rounder Tim de Lede has been their star performer, taking four for 35 against India in Paarl, top-scoring with 58 not out against England and taking two for 34

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AFP, Durban

England batsman Michael Vaughan's scan on his injured right calf here Monday revealed no major damage two days before the crucial World Cup match against India at Kingsmead.

Vaughan, Test cricket's leading run scorer in 2002, sustained a right calf strain during Saturday's comprehensive 112-run win against Pakistan in Cape Town.

He did not field at Newlands and subsequently received ice treatment.

Two ultrasound and MRI scans at a Durban hospital were clear, but Vaughan will continue to receive "intensive treatment" ahead of Wednesday's day-night clash, an England statement said.

Vaughan is due to practise with the rest of the squad on Tuesday and England said their medical staff were "hopeful" that the Yorkshire batsman would be fit for the crunch game.

The concern for England is that Vaughan has had calf injuries before. Two years ago he tore the muscle and missed the entire Test series in Pakistan.

England captain Nasser Hussain still has a stiff neck problem but this is not expected to rule the Madras-born batsman out of Wednesday's match.

"At this stage we're reasonably confident he will play, but we will have a clearer idea tomorrow (Tues

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Michael Vaughan

PHOTO: STAR FILE

Harper tight-lipped



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Roger Harper

INTERNET, Johannesburg

Roger Harper remained non-committal yesterday on reports that he had not reapplied for the job as West Indies team coach.

"I really don't want to answer that," he replied when asked, adding that he was unaware of widespread speculation that he would quit his post at the end of the current World Cup.

Applications for manager and coach have already been assessed by the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) which earlier stated the decisions would not be announced until the World Cup was over.

Harper, 39, the former Guyana captain who played 25 Tests between 1987 and 1994, was appointed coach on a three-year contract in succession to Vivian Richards in March 2000.

At the same time, Kittitian businessman Ricky Skerritt was made manager.

According to sources close to the WICB, Skerritt has re-applied for an extension on his contract but

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Quips & Quotes

AFP, Johannesburg

Who's saying what at the World Cup:

"Do I want to go through this all again and put my mum, wife, kids and the rest of the family through another couple of weeks of heartache, anticipation and anxiety?"

Shane Warne reconsidering an appeal over his 12-month drug ban.

"The players must realise we have hit rock bottom and need to come out of that."

Pakistan coach Richard Pybus on his team's faltering campaign.

"I didn't have any great plan to go out there and set the place alight. It was just a great track on which to bat."

Canada's John Davison after hitting the fastest ever century in World Cup history against the West Indies.

"The incident was disappointing and pretty disruptive at this stage of the

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AFP, Bulawayo

Reigning champions Australia became the first team at the World Cup to qualify for the Super Sixes when they brushed aside Zimbabwe by seven wickets on Monday.

Adam Gilchrist led the way with 61 off 65 balls as Australia overhauled Zimbabwe's challenging 246-9 with 15 deliveries to spare at the Queens sports club here.

Australia's fourth consecutive win left them needing a victory over minnows Namibia at Potchefstroom on Thursday to top group B.

Zimbabwe, who have two wins in four games, will jostle with India, Pakistan and England for the two remaining Super Six berths from the group.

Gilchrist hit eight boundaries after sharing an opening stand of 89 with Matthew Hayden.

Damien Martyn and Darren Lehmann compiled unbeaten centuries to see the Australians through with a 92-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

Lehmann hit the winning

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Aussies first in Super 6



Zimbabwean ace Andy Flower gears up for a whack against Australia at Bulawayo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Flying tycoons

AFP, New Delhi

South Africa's national carrier is laughing its way to the bank as Indian blue-chip firms fly out their executives to the World Cup for the Indian team's titanic clashes with England and Pakistan this week.

Officials from South Africa Airways Monday said the airline was laying on extra flights to cater especially for the adrenaline-pumping day-night showdown expected between arch-rivals India and Pakistan at Centurion on Saturday.

"We have deployed four additional flights this week to take care of cricket fans for the India-Pakistan clash," Nalini Gupta, general manager of the airline's Indian operations, told AFP.

"In view of the fact there are so many enthusiasts, our airline took a

decision to lay on extra aircraft and these, too, are going fairly full.

"After all it will be a big event," she said, adding that SAA has replaced its regular 180-seater planes that operated four weekly flights with larger 260-seat capacity Boeing-SP passenger aircraft.

India has maintained a boycott of cricket with Pakistan for more than two years, with the government in New Delhi accusing Islamabad of sending militants to foment trouble in the disputed Indian zone of Kashmir.

The two countries have not played each other since an Asia Cup league match in Dhaka, Bangladesh in June 2000, with their Test ties snapping in 1986-1987.

The two countries, who have fought three wars over Kashmir

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Saurav shifts focus on Eng

REUTERS, Pietermaritzburg

India brushed aside the challenge of Namibia on Sunday and immediately turned their attention to their next World Cup Pool A match against England.

Sachin Tendulkar top-scored with 152 and captain Saurav Ganguly rediscovered his form with an unbeaten 112 as India crushed the tournament minnows by 181 runs.

Ganguly, though, quickly looked ahead to Wednesday's game against in-form England who upset Pakistan by 112 runs on Saturday.

"I watched the game," he said. "England played very well, but we will be up for it."

Ganguly thinks good batting will be vital if India are to beat England in the day-night match in Durban.

"The key to the game will be putting runs on the board," he said. "Our improving form is certainly going to help us there."

Ganguly, nursing a cut on his chin suffered after edging a ball on to his face, was relieved to make a century after failing to reach fifty in

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Point of no return

AFP, Paarl

Under-pressure Pakistan World Cup coach Richard Pybus conceded on Monday his team was struggling in the deep end and only a do-or-die attitude could pull them out of trouble.

Pakistan's 112-run defeat against England was their second in three matches, which leaves them the task of beating the Netherlands, India and Zimbabwe to keep their

hopes alive of making the Super Six.

"The players must realise we have hit rock bottom and need to come out of that," Pybus told AFP ahead of the next match against the Dutch here on Tuesday.

"After the defeat against England our backs are against the wall and in the next three games we need a do-or-die attitude to go forward in the tournament."

"There is only one way to go - the

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Richard Pybus

PHOTO: STAR FILE

Hauritz in for Warne

REUTERS, Melbourne

Young off break bowler Nathan Hauritz will replace suspended leg-spinner Shane Warne in Australia's 15-man squad at the World Cup, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) announced on Monday.

Hauritz will join the Australia squad on Tuesday at their base in Potchefstroom upon their return to South Africa, the ACB said in a statement.

The 21-year-old Queenslanders has taken seven wickets in five one-day internationals after making his debut against South Africa in Johannesburg 11 months ago.

"It's obviously a strange feeling, because I am disappointed at the result of Shane's hearing, but naturally thrilled to be called up into the squad," Hauritz said in an ACB statement.

"Shane has been one of my heroes since I was a kid, so to be replacing him now is somewhat bitter-sweet."

Hauritz has taken 14 wickets in the Australian interstate one-day series) this season and was named

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No Flower after WC?

INTERNET, Bulawayo

Outstanding Zimbabwean batsman Andy Flower is set to retire from the international game after the World Cup and finish his career in Australia and England.

Flower, 34, making perhaps his final appearance against Australia in tonight's World Cup match at the sodden Queen's Sports Club, is poised to play the northern summer with Essex and Pura Cup for South Australia.

Flower yesterday denied a report he had bought property in Adelaide, but it is known he has been in contact with South Australian officials and is keen to play Pura Cup.

His signing, which should happen after the cup, would be a coup for the South Australia.

Flower is renowned not only as one of the game's best batsmen, but an exceptional role model for young talent.

"Andrew is the most professional player I have ever had anything to do with," said Zimbabwe coach Geoff Marsh, who coached Australia to victory in the 1999 World Cup. "I have never seen a guy train as much as he does."

"Yesterday morning, the day after he had a disappointing game,

he was down the nets at 7am with his father throwing balls at him. He is a self-made cricketer, a great example for all young cricketers."

Flower's commitment to his fitness is such that when his teammates hopped on the team bus at the Queen's ground just before dusk yesterday, he waved them goodbye and jogged home 5km through Bulawayo's unpretentious streets, past the bread and petrol queues to the team hotel.

Flower has already told teammates he will not be with them for their tour of England after the World Cup.

Flower yesterday offered a reluctant "no comment" when quizzed about the prospect of moving to Adelaide, perhaps in fear of causing an uproar in his homeland.

He has been instructed by Zimbabwean Cricket Union officials not to make any public statements following the controversial anti-government stance he and black fast bowler Henry Olonga have taken in the cup.

They have worn black armbands, then black wristbands, in protest against what they claim is

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