

India look past Kenya

AFP, Durban

62; J Srinath 4-30)

128-1 in 22.2 overs

INDIA

AFP, Durban

Try as they might to avoid it, India can't help having one eye on the World Cup final.

Although India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and coach John Wright have warned that Kenya, their unexpected semifinal opponents, cannot be taken lightly in Thursday's day-night encounter here at Kingsmead, both have unintentionally made it clear they expect to be involved in Sunday's climax at the Wanderers.

On Tuesday, former New

HEAD TO HEAD India V Kenya AFP, Durban Head-to-head record of recent matches between India and Kenya ahead of their day-night World Cup semifinal at Kingsmead here on Thursday:					
			March 7 2003	India won by 6 wickets	Newlands
			Oct 24 2001	India won by 186 runs	Paarl
Oct 17 2001	Kenya won by 70 runs	Port Elizabeth			
Oct 12 2001	India won by 10 wickets	Bloemfontein			
Oct 3 2000	India won by 8 wickets	Nairobi			
Sept 29 1999	India won by 58 runs	Nairobi			
May 23 1999	India won by 94 runs	Bristol			
May 31 1998	India won by 9 wickets	Calcutta			
May 28 1998	Kenya won by 69 runs	Gwalior			

very important innings.

two games.

mance in this tournament and

1983 and time will tell if Harbhaian

and Wright's words come back to

Zealand captain Wright, when haunt them.

asked about star batsman Sachin Wright was at pains to point out

Tendulkar's chances of becoming his team were taking Kenya, the man of the tournament, said: "He's first non-Test nation ever to reach a still got two games to play. They are World Cup semifinal, seriously even though India have already And on Monday, Harbhajan had beaten them by six wickets in a said: "I feel I've still got a big perfor-

Super Six game. Wright said he expected India to hopefully it will happen in the next go in with the same team that has got them this far even though many feel they will not need seven recog-India have not appeared in a World Cup final since they won the nised batsmen against the East title for the first and only time in Africans' attack.

"We don't play a seventh bats-

Feb 12: beat the Netherlands by

68 runs at Paarl (India 204 in 48.5

overs: S Tendulkar 52: T de

Leede 4-35; and the Netherlands

136 in 48.1 overs; D van Bunge

Feb 15: lost to Australia by

nine wickets at Centurion (India

125 in 41.4 overs and Australia

ROAD TO SEMIS

How India and Kenya reached the semifinals of the World Cup:

KENYA

not out)

man for insurance. We just feel it's Few expected Kenya to come right for the balance of team. The this far, having beaten three Test last time we played Kenya, Dinesh nations 1996 champions Sri Mongia bowled well," explained Lanka, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh Wright. on the way.

Veteran India paceman Javagal Srinath has been rejuvenated by spinner Collins and wicketkeeper the presence of youthful left-Kennedy, Kenya have two players armers Zaheer Khan and Ashish who have made a name for them-Nehra, the trio taking 43 wickets selves at this tournament. between them at this World Cup.

Added to that India's top order Indian World Cup winner Sandeep have also fired at crucial times with Patil, have several players who Sachin Tendulkar leading the way know what it takes to beat India in a with a record 586 runs in the tourone-day international. nament.

The Africans have won two of their 11 one-dayers against India.

In the Obuya brothers, leg-

Kenya, coached by former

"For us to win we'll have to play a few notches up and they'll have to play a few notches down," admitted Asif Karim, who was Kenya's skipper when they first beat India at Gwalior in 1998.

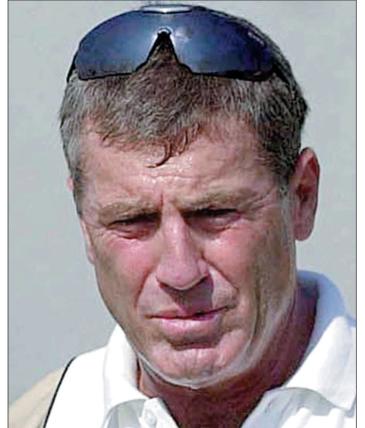
"I don't think we'll realise what we're in for until we get on the field on Thursday. "There'll be a full house, one

billion people in India watching the match, everyone in Kenya and millions around the world. Relatives of the Kenyan team

who wanted to be present in Durban for the match, failed to secure visas and were set to stay at home.



SEE PAGE 14 KENYA? I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT! Indian maestro Sachin Tendulkar ponders over something during stretching exercises at Durban yesterday.



Time is Wright

AFP, Durban

India's cricket crazy public, often the scourge of their players, are an inspiration to coach John Wright.

"I love the job, I love the passion for cricket in India. The Indian people need, want and deserve a good cricket team, a fighting cricket team," Wright, a former New Zealand captain, said ahead of Thursday's World Cup semifinal against Kenya here.

"The way the game is loved universally in India, for someone like myself, as an outsider who loves cricket, it's been an enjoyable, challenging journey.

"I tell my friends, 'you must

about current coaches," the 48year-old said.

Feb 12: lost to South Africa by 10

wickets at Potchefstroom

(Kenya 140 in 38 overs; R Shah

60; L Klusener 4-16; and South

Africa 142-0 in 21.2 overs: H

Gibbs 87 not out, G Kirsten 52

Feb 15: beat Canada by four

wickets in Cape Town (Canada

197 in 49 overs; I Billcliff 71; T

"But the players have to take the credit. We help where we can. But they do the hard work on the field."

However, Wright added: "All of the players are now more aware of the goals and criteria they have to meet during a game. That's been reflected in our fielding and running between the wickets.'

Under Wright, India have become a close-knit unit and started to shed their reputation for crumbling away from home.

"We've had a settled side so the selectors must take credit for that. I told the players that if we keep winning we'll stick together.'

Quips&Quotes

Cup: "The whole dressing room was surprised. I won't be encouraging any of our bats-men to do it."

Sri Lanka's Aravinda de Silva who claimed Gilchrist's

"I would not say the entire batting failed. I would say more the middle or lower order per-haps didn't give us enough runs, that certainly was the case cognist Australia."

AFP, Johannesburg Who's saying what at the World

AFP, Durban

Australia captain Ricky Ponting after Adam Gilchrist 'walked' in the semifinal against Sri Lanka. after the World Cup.

"It was a good gesture on his part. It is very rare to see bats-men walking off. There are still some gentlemen in the game."

wicket.

"I've no intention of giving up icv at anv

thought about it

giving him grey hair.

Saurav staying put



John Wright

watch cricket in India' It's one of the great experiences in cricket, to go to India and see what it means."

Wright's contract with the Indian team ends after the World Cup, but it is likely to be extended after his side won eight of their nine matches to reach the semifinal.

On Monday, off-spinner Harbhajan Singh paid tribute to Wright's influence but the Kiwi downplayed the compliment in typical deadpan fashion. "Players usually say nice things

PHOTO: STAR FILE

Turning to Thursday's match, Wright said India, who beat Kenya by six wickets in their Super Six encounter at Newlands on March 7, would have to be on their guard. "We shouldn't expect to win,"

Wright warned even though his team are favourites to make the final

INTERNET, Durban

OPENERS

well.

Kingsmead here on Thursday:

India changed their opening com-bination following the first two group games at the World Cup.

In came Virender Sehwag, and

Tendulkar has scored one cen-

"We have to concentrate on our game plans and the result will take care of itself.

against Australia. Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore looking for rea-sons why his team failed.

"I just try and chip in with the bat and the ball and field well. It all beats standing in the deep doing nothing."

Australia's Andrew Symonds after his match-w i n n i n g SEE PAGE 15

SEE PAGE 14

Ganguly expressed sympathy for former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis, sacked on Wednesday in the wake of the team's first round exit at the World Cup, which included a defeat against archrivals India.

"Once you are in Pakistan cricket you get used to being sacked. I feel sorry for him. He's done well with the side.

Kenya are the first non-Test nation ever to reach the last four of



SEE PAGE 14 Saurav Ganguly

Goodbye to De Silva



PHOTO: AFP

IT DIDN'T HAVE TO END LIKE THIS: Sri Lanka's master batsman Aravinda de Silva walks back to the pavilion after being run out against Australia on March 18.

INTERNET, Port Elizabeth

Sri Lanka's World Cup semifinal loss to Australia on Tuesday ended the international cricket career of record-breaking batsman Aravinda de Silva. The team may struggle to replace its most prolific run-maker.

Captain Saurav Ganguly believed his partnership with maestro Sachin Tendulkar was not The 37-year-old de Silva played 93 Tests and scored a Sri Lankan record 9,284 runs in 308 one-day blossoming like he would have internationals, the third highest wished and therefore elected to individual tally behind Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad drop himself down the order. Azharuddin. the rest as they say is history.

He was man-of-the-match in the 1996 World Cup final after hitting a century to lead Sri Lanka to victory over the Australians.

With younger batsmen such as tury this tournament and fallen Mahela Jayawardene and Russel just short of a couple more on two Arnold failing to match expecta-tions at the World Cup, De Silva's occasions The Kenyan pair of Kennedy Otieno and Ravindu Shah proved retirement leaves a void that may take a decade to fill. their pedigree when they put on 75

"We will never find another runs for the first wicket against player of his calibre for the next 10 India in the Super Sixes. years,'' said Saadi Thawfeeq, sports editor of Sri Lanka's Daily News. Otieno made a creditable 79 while Shah is his side's leading run-

"The nearest player we have to him is Jayawardene and he has

been struggling for form. Russel Arnold, too, is not living up to his State of strength | From spinach to spin

MIDDLE-ORDER

This pair-up would have been Following are some key contests in under some debate had the Indian the World Cup second semifinal between India and Kenya at middle-order continued in the same tepid form as they had done in the first few games of their campaign

However, after several kicks up the backside both from team man-agement and the press back in India, the players eventually began to show why collectively they are seen by many as the best batting line-up in world cricket.

Should the openers fail, then a fast-improving Rahul Dravid may hold the key to success. The young pair of Yuvraj Singh and Mohammed Kaif are also beginning to nurture a reputation for them-Although Sehwag has yet to shine, he has supported Tendulkar

Although captain and veteran Steve Tikolo is not Kenya's leading scorer, his influence on the pitch may prove vital.

The likes of Thomas Odoyo and Maurice Odumbe showed in the Super Six match against Zimbabwe they have the temperament to steer their team to victory although India's bowling attack may prove to be too stiff an opposition

Advantage: India **ALL-ROUNDERS**

If the pair can come up trumps Kenya have a number of players again, then it will give Kenva the perfect platform to go on and cause who fall into the 'jack of all trades' SEE PAGE 14

REUTERS, Durban

The most successful leg-spinner at the 2003 World Cup is neither an Australian nor an Indian.

Collins Obuya began life as a medium pacer, copied Mushtaq Ahmed's action, picked up tips from Shane Warne and Anil Kumble and works on the family vegetable stall in his spare time.

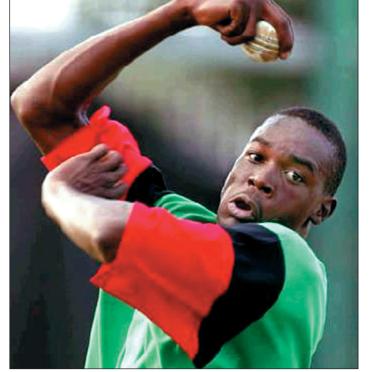
From such unpromising beginnings the Kenyan has emerged as one of the finds of the tournament.

The tall 22-year-old, with a looping delivery and capable of sharp turn and significant bounce, made his mark when capturing five for 24, at the time the ninth best analysis in World Cup history, in the shock first-round win over 1996 champions Sri Lanka.

He will get another opportunity to impress on Thursday when facing India in the semifinals.

An unassuming man from Nairobi, he puts down much to his success to an inquisitive mind and generous offers of help from the spinners' union'

He had begun by trying to imitate Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq while watching the 1996 World С u р



SEE PAGE 14 **Collins Obuya** PHOTO: STAR FILE

PHOTO:AF

a major shock. SEE PAGE 14

scorer with 264.

Advantage: India