



Andre Agassi eyes a shot against Fernando Gonzalez of Chile during the quarterfinal match of the Countrywide Classic UCLA in California on Friday.

Agassi's LA voyage over

Tennis AFP, Los Angeles Andre Agassi bid farewell to a tournament that helped shape his glorious career...

(7/5) in Washington in 2003. Ironically, Gonzalez helped lower the curtain on another American tennis legend's career.

Open, which starts in August. "You never prepare yourself for the emotions of the moment," Agassi said.

quarterfinal match against Tursunov. Roddick first suffered the left side strain during his 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 6-2 second round win over wild card Scott Oudsema.

The eight-time Grand Slam winner Agassi was the defending Los Angeles champion, and he also captured the title in 1998, 2001, and 2002.

"It is a pleasure and honour for me to play against Andre," said Gonzalez, who turns 26 on Saturday.

Roddick, who is known for his explosive serves and competitive spirit, is hoping that by hiring Connors, he will shake his "one slam wonder" label.

Roddick captured the 2003 US Open title but he has not won a major since. He is winless on the ATP Tour in 2006.

"I am at peace with my career," Agassi said. "I feel great about the decision to retire and I look forward to the summer."

"I hung in there. I just wasn't getting enough looks on points on his serve.

"The heat of his forehand was more of a factor," deadpanned Agassi. Gonzalez rallied in the ninth game of the third set to hold serve.

Big-spending Abahani recruited dependable defender Issa Mia from Mariners apart from retaining their own striker Ruseel Mahmud Jimmy for a reportedly highest pay of the season.

Armstrong backs Landis

Cycling AFP, Los Angeles Floyd Landis, fighting a doping scandal that could cost him the Tour de France crown, made his case on US television on Friday and received a vote of confidence from seven-time Tour winner Lance Armstrong.

epitestosterone level "was a shock as much to me as anyone else." He said he would do everything he could to clear his name.

"I was at the Tour. I watched Floyd ... I thought it was unlike anything I've seen in cycling -- and I mean that in a good way."

seduced by the lure of performance enhancing drugs. "If we ever suspected anything to lead us to believe he was a cheater, we would have parted ways long before we did."

SL pair shatters WR

FROM PAGE 17 Hayden's 380 and Lara's world record score of 400 not out. The 29-year-old, who declared at the fall of his wicket, received a standing ovation as he returned after a marathon innings lasting 12 hours and 42 minutes in hot and humid weather in the Sri Lankan capital.

Sobers made the unbeaten 365 and Conrad Hunte 260 for the West Indies against Pakistan in Kingstown in 1957-58.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 169 (De Villiers 65; Fernando 4-48, Muralidaran 4-41) SRI LANKA: First innings (over-night 485-2) Tharanga c Boucher b Steyn 7 Jayasuriya lbw b Steyn 4 Sangakkara c Boucher b Hall 287 Jayawardene b Nel 374 Dilshan lbw b Steyn 45 Kapugedera not out 1 Extras: (b-17, lb-5, w-8, nb-8) 38 Total: (For 5 wks decl in 185.1 overs) 656 Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-14, 3-638, 4-751, 5-756 Did not bat: P Jayawardena, Maharoof, Malinga, Fernando, Muralidaran

"I saw what he went through, and I didn't feel it because I hadn't gone through it myself, and now I can relate," Landis said.

The Proteas, already without the injured duo of skipper Graeme Smith and Jacques Kallis, also missed veteran all-rounder Shaun Pollock, who opted out of the match following the birth of his second child.

Both batsmen, close friends off the field, hugged each other amid applause and a loud burst of fire-crackers in the stands as umpire Mark Benson signalled the four byes.

Marcelinho was recently forced to apologise to his Hertha team mates, officials and fans after extending his holidays in Brazil and turning up to pre-season training 10 days late.

Marcelinho joined Hertha after an unremarkable season with French first division club Marseille in 2000/01.

There was little the South Africans could do to stop the rampaging Jayawardene and Sangakkara in good batting conditions. It was the best display by two batsmen in a Test innings since

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and South Africa at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo on Saturday:

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Ntini, Steyn, Nel, Hall, Boje, Rudolph, Prince, De Villiers, Maharoof, Fernando, Muralidaran, Dilshan.

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IOC chief blasts dope-cheats

AFP, Rome

Athletes who dope are like criminals and sports authorities must make fighting the problem a priority, International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge said on Saturday.

"The problem of doping won't disappear overnight. Doping in sport is like criminality in society," Rogge said after revelations Tour de France winner Floyd Landis tested positive for muscle-building hormone testosterone.

However, Rogge, who was attending a meeting of European Olympic committees in Rome, suggested cycling, which in recent years has been rocked by one doping scandal after another, was a pacesetter in exposing drug cheats.

"As for cycling, we are looking for the solution to the problem," he said, adding, "few federations have the hematocrit test but cycling is one of them."

School chess

FROM PAGER 17 Rezaul Islam Babu, Saimon Siddiqui Rahman, Satyajit, Aniruddh Majumder, Mahfuzur Rahman, Kinjal Basu, S.M. Sharon, Sharif Hossain and Nazmus Shakib followed the leaders with four points each.

MSC shop

FROM PAGER 17 firming the services of their striker Ariful Haque Prince for one more year. Goalkeeper Shakil, Tahmidur Rahman Tunin, Rashed Hasan Ronny, Ashiqul Haque Rinku, Mahbubur Rahman Chayan, Sohag Gazi, Anisuzzaman Sweet and Sharafat Mia were the other players joined the Mohammedan ranks.

Ibra & Camo

FROM PAGE 20 "I'll speak with the club as soon as possible to decide what happens, but my objective is to play for a team who is targeting the Champions League Final. I don't care in what country that is in."

United agree Carrick

FROM PAGE 20 "He had a good season last season and got in the World Cup squad but I think my one reservation is whether he can change a game round," Winterburn said.

Magura in final round

Football Hosts Magura romped into the final round of the Jubok Phone National Football Championship when they handed a 3-0 defeat on Chudagan in the Kaputakkha zone final yesterday.

Nistelrooy

FROM PAGE 20 Van Nistelrooy, who scored 150 goals for United and is the club's all-time leading European goal-scorer, had also been targeted by German champions Bayern Munich.

Marcelinho

FROM PAGE 20 Marcelinho was recently forced to apologise to his Hertha team mates, officials and fans after extending his holidays in Brazil and turning up to pre-season training 10 days late.

Spurs ready to splash the cash

Football INTERNET, undated

Tottenham will rekindle their interest in Wigan defender Pascal Chimbonda and Middlesbrough winger Stewart Downing after selling Michael Carrick to Manchester United for £15million.

Carrick, who turned 25 yesterday, rejected a new deal at Spurs to join United. The former West Ham midfielder had two years left on his current Spurs contract but brought negotiations to halt and admitted he wanted to leave the club for United.

Tottenham made a profit of just over £12million on the England international and already have Ivory Coast international Didier Zokora as a ready-made replacement.

move to White Hart Lane. The Tottenham coach had wanted Carrick to return the loyalty shown to him by the club's management after his arrival at the club from West Ham.

Jol regularly picked Carrick ahead of previous first team star Pedro Mendes, who later left for Portsmouth, and in preference to Edgar Davids last season.

Tottenham fought hard to keep Carrick after they dismissed United's initial offer of £10million earlier this summer. But the player's request to leave for United left the club in a no-win situation.

The defender is due to return to Wigan this weekend and has not changed his mind about moving after handing in a transfer request last May. The 27-year-old is determined

to move to a bigger club despite Wigan boss Paul Jewell admitting he is ready to offer the player a lucrative new deal in an effort to keep him.

Chimbonda's switch to London was made all the more likely after Tottenham target Curtis Davies signed a new four-year deal with West Brom on Friday.

The 21-year-old, who impressed in the Barclays Premiership last season as Albion were relegated, pledged his future to the club until 2010. Tottenham's search for a left-sided midfielder will again focus on Downing after they failed to persuade Chelsea's Damien Duff to make the switch across London.

However, Boro might find it difficult to resist a vastly increased offer for the winger from Spurs who are desperate to find an answer to their lack of balance on the left.

Fortune grateful for Bolton

Football AFP, Bolton

South Africa international Quinton Fortune believes he can make a success of his new career with Bolton Wanderers and prove Manchester United they were wrong to let him go.

The 29-year-old midfielder spent seven years at Old Trafford, but saw his spell under Sir Alex Ferguson brought to an end by a long-standing knee injury which caused him to miss the entire 2005/2006 season.

"I'm now in the best condition I've ever been," said Fortune. "The injury was obviously frustrating and you don't want anything like that to happen."

"But I never had any doubts I would return, even after Manchester United released me. I admit it was difficult to leave because I had good times there. "But I've come to learn you can't get too attached to things. You have to move on sometime, and

I've moved on to a great club. "My fitness is now good, and that's credit to the medical staff who have worked with me all summer.

"With other clubs there was a negative approach, but with Bolton they were positive. There was never any doubt about getting me fit."

Fortune is confident his injury nightmare is now behind him and is determined to make the most of his one-year deal at the Reebok Stadium.

"Nothing is set because I have to perform well to get into the team," he said.

"I know I now have an opportunity here and I'm looking forward to the challenge. Hopefully I can stay here longer, but that's down to me to play good football, and most importantly help the team."

Allardyce insists Fortune is ready to prove himself in the Premiership again after 76 appearances for United.

"He comes in every day and looks a happy man, and that's a great sign for me," said the Bolton boss.

"What he gives us is his experience after seven years at Manchester United, and after speaking to Sir Alex and knowing the way he plays the game, he is a tough character."

B'DESH V ZIM

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Mashrafe, Shahadat, Razzak, Aftab, Rafique, Kapali, Ashraf.

Result: Zimbabwe won by two wickets and take 1-0 lead in the 5-ODI series.

Man-of-the-match: Stuart Matsikenyeri. Toss: Zimbabwe. Umpires: K Barbour and I Howell.

BFF's emergency

FROM PAGE 17 "EC can resolve the committee because they have the authority to do so," he added.

Replying to a question, Helal admitted that there were no voting in the EC meeting to select Babu as a manager only to establish Salahuddin's Friday's claim that what his president had said at a press conference on Thursday regarding the selection of Babu was an aberration of truth.

"We discussed the issue but there were no voting about the matter. The general sentiment however was in favour of Babu," said Helal.

Meanwhile, the organisation of former footballers, Sonali Otiti Club, condemned the remark of SA Sultan where the BFF president said that he didn't know Abu Noman Nannu as a footballer.

"We protested and condemned this senseless remark. One can't make such comment if he has adequate knowledge about Nannu's rich background," the club said in a statement yesterday.

Pakistan

FROM PAGE 20 Harmison's first innings haul, on a lively pitch, saw England capitalise on the fact that, as in the drawn first Test at Lord's, Pakistan were without leading fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar (ankle), Mohammad Asif (elbow) and Navedul Hasan (out of the whole tour with a groin injury).

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the second Test between England and Pakistan at Old Trafford on Saturday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 119 (Younis 44, Youisuf 38; Harmison 6-19, Panesar 3-21) ENGLAND: First innings 461-9 declared (Cook 127, Bell 106 not out; Gul 3-96)

PAKISTAN: Second innings (over-night 12-0) Akmal c Jones b Harmison 4 Farhat c Bell b Panesar 34 Younis lbw b Panesar 62 Youisuf st Jones b Panesar 15 Inzamam c Cook b Panesar 13 Inzab not out 23 Razzaka not out 1 Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-3, nb-4) 15 Total: (For 5 wks in 52.1 overs) 167 Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-60, 3-101, 4-117, 5-161

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Hoggard, Harmison, Mahmood, Panesar.