

## Clisters to marry basketball player

AFP, Brussels

Former world No.1 Kim Clijsters is to marry American basketball player Brian Lynch who currently plays for Belgian side Bree, press reports said on Monday.

The couple have been together since early 2005 and announced their engagement in April.

Clijsters for several years was the girlfriend of Australia's former world No.1 Lleyton Hewitt before they split up in October, 2004 four months before their planned marriage.

The oft-injured Belgian player also confirmed her intention to retire from tennis at some stage next year.

"I will play Wimbledon for sure," said Clijsters who indicated that her marriage to Lynch could take place shortly after that.

Clijsters has been out of action for several weeks with a wrist injury she sustained while preparing to defend her US Open title.

But she is to make her return to the courts on home turf in the Hasselt WTA tournament which starts on Monday.

## Catalans seek

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The Brazilian, who had a poor World Cup, earlier this month admitted that "I haven't lived up to expectations".

And that was ahead of an unimpressive Stamford Bridge showing which handed Barca their first Champions League loss in 20 months.

In the Nou Camp, however, Barca have history on their side.

They have only ever lost once in 21 matches against English sides, to Liverpool in the 1975-76 UEFA Cup semi-final.

Chelsea's Champions League record away is not impressive with five defeats in eight games prior to the 3-1 win in Sofia inspired once more by Drogba.

And in Spain the Blues have a paltry return of one win and last year's Barca draw in seven outings.

The win was over Real Betis in the 1997-98 Cup Winners' Cup quarterfinals.

## Jose not

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the break, a claim Barca coach Frank Rijkaard vehemently denied.

Frisk promptly retired from the game after saying he had received death threats from some Chelsea fans.

Mourinho preferred to concentrate on the threat from world player of the year Ronaldinho, twice on target against Huelva but blowing hot and cold all season.

"Ronaldinho even at 70 percent of his capability is more dangerous than most (players) at 100 percent," said Mourinho, who regretted that his team had lost through injury Petr Cech, "the world's best goalkeeper."

## Schalke slump

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Schalke's defeat left Werder Bremen three points clear at the top with nine games played, following their 6-1 demolition of Mainz on Friday.

Bayern Munich, champions for the past two seasons, are in second place on 16 points, ahead of Schalke on goal difference, after a 2-0 win at home to Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday.

Stuttgart moved up to fourth, a point behind Schalke.

Arminia Bielefeld maintained their good start by beating Alemannia Aachen 5-1 in Sunday's other match.

That was enough to take Bielefeld up to fifth place with 14 points from nine matches.

## Pressure on

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Barcelona in the first leg. Now the pressure is on them and it will be hard for them to reach the next stage.

Didier Drogba scored the winner at Stamford Bridge on Matchday 3 and Ballack feels that result has given a "real boost" as the group stage reaches its climax. "Defeating Barcelona was vital and has given our confidence a real boost, especially as we played such good football. We were highly concentrated and it was a great game to watch. Every season you have two or three very special matches and this one against Barcelona was one of them. If you win such a crucial clash, the boost is tremendous."

Ballack scored his second Premiership goal since signing from FC Bayern Munich in Chelsea's 2-0 win against Sheffield United on Saturday, and the English champions are in excellent form as they chase their third straight title.

## India lambasted

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"The batting has been failing for too long," said former India captain Krish Srikanth.

"The top-order batsmen have to regain their consistency, if India are to make an impact in the World Cup."

India travel to South Africa in November for five one-dayers, a Twenty20 international and three Tests.

# WADA not happy with ICC

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) officials have criticised the International Cricket Council (ICC) for not making proper arrangements for the officials to carry out random drug tests on players during the Champions Trophy.

Yousef Hasan and Badar Al Saeed, the two officials representing the WADA, said that the ICC had received a list of requirements from the WADA about the facilities that they required, but the ones that it provided were not up to standard.

The officials were dissatisfied with the arrangements that the ICC had made with regard to the venue of the drug tests. "According to the rules, it should be a secure place with guards," Hasan told Times Now, a 24-hour news channel. "It should have refrigerators with water and soft drinks to help the player be comfortable to provide the urine sample which we need to collect. In this place, we had to share space

with the medical staff and we did not have a secure place. We had to wait till everybody left, so we could lock the place and ensure that no one went inside.

"These are important things. We need the athlete to be comfortable and we need the place to be secure so that no one can enter or leave except for us. We asked for guards, but we did not get them. We requested walky-talkies so we could communicate with the chaperones who were with the players, but they too were not provided to us. So we will put all these things in the report and submit it with WADA. And as per the rules, if any organising committee cannot enforce anti-doping control, it [WADA] might stop them from conducting future tests."

Brian Murgatroyd, the ICC Manager for Media and Communications, said that he had seen the news report about the WADA officials' criticisms of the ICC but declined to comment.

Random testing was done on a trial basis during the World Cup 2003 but this is the first time that the tests are being conducted on an

official level. Testing is restricted to two players from each team playing the match though there is no restriction on the number of matches during which samples can be taken.

Another problem, the officials said, was that the ICC had not issued ID cards to players. Saeed found this out when he asked a Pakistan player for ID who replied that he didn't have any. "On talking to the Pakistan team manager, we were told that the ICC did not provide players with ID cards," said Saeed. "How can we tell who is who without ID? This was the first, and hopefully the last time that we have come across a player without ID. And it is not the player's fault because nothing had been received from the ICC."

"We have been on many doping control testing missions with lots of federations," said Hasan. "We've been dealing with them professionally and they've been dealing back very professionally as well. Unfortunately I can't say the same thing about ICC."

## MOTO GP

# Hayden ends Rossi's reign

AFP, Valencia

Nicky Hayden won the MotoGP world title here on Sunday following the final race of the season the Valencia Grand Prix.

The American finished third behind Australian Troy Bayliss -- his first ever victory at this level -- in the race but main rival and five-time champion Valentino Rossi, who had led the standings going into the race, blew his chances when he tumbled on the fifth lap.

Although he remounted he was never able to really threaten Hayden's hold on the title and finished 13th.

An elated Hayden said it was a dream come true.

"I am just really, really proud, man!" said Hayden.

"You dedicate yourself to something for life and then it comes off. It is wonderful."

"We were really down after Portugal (he crashed giving Rossi the series lead for the first time) but this proves dreams really come true," said the rider from Kentucky, whose family

were present for the occasion.

Rossi admitted he was devastated by the defeat.

"It's a disaster," said the Italian. "It's disappointing to have come to the last race with an eight point lead and not to win the title."

"I made two mistakes -- a bad start and the fall, but that's racing. All I can say is 'bravo' to Nicky because he's a great rider."

"He's the champion because he was the best this year."

For Bayliss it was also a dream day while Caprossi had another reason to celebrate as his wife is expecting a child.

"It's been a crazy weekend," said Bayliss.

"It is more than a fairytale."

Rossi didn't get the greatest of starts going back from pole to sixth after the first lap while Hayden went ahead of him, though it was reigning Superbike champion Bayliss who stole the lead.

Hayden had moved into second after two laps as Rossi failed to make an impression early on.

Rossi's terrible start was exacerbated as struggling in seventh position he tumbled off the bike on the fifth lap and while he remounted frantically he was way down in 20th place with Hayden now in second and with victory in the title race staring him in the face.

Hayden stayed up at the vanguard in third with 21 laps remaining while Rossi was way back in 18th place, as Bayliss and Loris Caprossi fought it out at the front.

Rossi clawed his way into the points with 19 laps remaining moving into 15th and with 13 left he was into 14th and lapping faster than any of the other riders.

However his brief renaissance came to an end as his times started to tail off with eight laps remaining and Hayden showed no signs of flagging or losing his concentration.

Hayden exploded with joy after the chequered flag and Rossi showed what a sportsman he is by riding alongside him on the victory lap and holding his hand.

## Federer out of Paris meet

AFP, PARIS

World number one Roger Federer on Monday pulled out of the Paris Masters, tournament organisers said, dealing another blow to an event already rocked by the absence of French Open winner Rafael Nadal.

Federer, who wrapped up his 11th title of the season on Sunday when he won his hometown Basel tournament, had hinted that he would withdraw in order to save himself for the Masters Cup in Shanghai from November 12.

His win over Fernando Gonzalez in Basel was his 92nd match of 2006.

"Roger telephoned to say that he was very tired after his final in Basel and would not be playing," said tournament director Alain Riou.

Federer hasn't played the Paris tournament since 2003 when he made the quarterfinals while Nadal has yet to make his debut at the Bercy arena.

The Swiss superstar has had a hectic three weeks winning the titles in Tokyo, the Madrid Masters and then Basel.

## Ricky predicts

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Shane Watson, who posted his second half-century at the top of the order on Sunday, has also settled into his new role as opener alongside Adam Gilchrist. "There's been glimpses in every game Watto's played that he's got everything required to be a good one-day opener," Ponting said, "and his bowling the last eight or ten games has been outstanding." The fast bowler Stuart Clark, who was named in the original Champions Trophy squad but withdrew with a thigh injury, will be one player with a chance to break back into the side over summer.

## An Asian

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In limited-overs cricket because a lot depends on how you play on that day, but a lot of hard work lies ahead if Asian teams are to do well at the World Cup."

Three Australian coaches -- India's Greg Chappell, Sri Lanka's Tom Moody and Bangladesh's Dav Whatmore -- and Englishman Bob Woolmer with Pakistan, have begun to feel the heat.

"It has to be said if paying huge sums to foreign coaches has helped," said outspoken former Indian captain Bishan Bedi. "Mr Chappell, at least, has reduced the Indian team to ashes."

## Camp begins

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decided to start the National Cricket Championship across the country from November 10 instead of November 2 but the National Cricket League, the lone first-class competition in the country, will begin on schedule from November 9.

Meanwhile, national cricketers will be able to play the remaining CCL matches and two rounds of the National Cricket League.

## Roger's dream

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Federer has now beaten Gonzalez with ease for the second Sunday in succession after a similar straight-sets thrashing last weekend in Madrid.

Gonzalez, the 2005 Basel winner, has now lost three indoor ATP finals in as many weeks following Vienna earlier this month to Ivan Ljubicic.

Federer was last beaten in August in an upset by Andy Murray in Cincinnati.

The world No. 1 now stands 11-4 in finals in 2006, taking all four of his losses to Rafael Nadal in the first half of the year.

Federer heads to Paris for next week's final tournament of the ATP on top form after beating Gonzalez for the ninth time without a loss.

"I played good tennis all week, I was just unlucky again to play against Roger," joked Gonzalez, moving up from his current ninth for a place in the season-ender in Shanghai, where the final four spots will be decided next week in Paris.

"He's the No. 1 and he's winning every week - we're all very jealous, but it's nothing personal."

The Chilean admitted that this month's indoor run of success has taken a toll on him, but he will fight on for his Shanghai spot at Paris, which begins on Monday.

"It's not the first time that I'm tired, but I'm happy to have reached another final. I played my best but couldn't do anything - Roger's just too good."

Federer's 11 trophies are six more than his nearest rivals in that count, Nadal and James Blake on five each.

The Swiss was never in trouble, firing 14 aces and breaking three times in an encounter lasting a shade under two hours.

Federer threatened to close it out even earlier, but Gonzalez survived seven deuces and saved three break points to hold for 6-5 in the final set.

# India recall Anil, Zaheer

Cricket

AFP, Mohali

Veterans Anil Kumble and Zaheer Khan were on Monday recalled to the under-performing Indian team for five one-day internationals in South Africa next month.

Leg-spinner Kumble, 36, has not been considered for limited-overs cricket since August, 2005, despite being the most successful Indian bowler in both forms of the game with 533 Test and 329 one-day wickets.

Left-arm seamer Zaheer, 28, was dumped after the tour of Pakistan in February and spent time honing his skills with English county Worcestershire.

Zaheer has claimed 155 wickets in 107 one-dayers and appeared fit and raring to go in domestic cricket this season.

Both Kumble and Zaheer were brought back a day after India were knocked out of the ongoing Champions Trophy at home following a six-wicket defeat at the hands of favourites Australia here.

New chairman of selectors Dilip Vengsarkar refused to make wholesale changes even though Rahul Dravid's men have lost eight of their last 10 one-day internationals.

Off-spinner Ramesh Powar was the only omission from the 14 that played in the Champions Trophy where India defeated England before losing their next two matches

to the West Indies and Australia.

Test opener Wasim Jaffar, who has yet to play a one-dayer despite playing 14 Test matches, was the only surprise inclusion for the tour.

"We expect wickets in South Africa to be grassy and favouring fast bowlers, so it was decided to bring in an extra opener like Jaffar," Vengsarkar told reporters here.

The team for the three Test matches to follow will be named later, he added.

Middle-order batsman Yuvraj Singh, who tore a ligament on his left knee last week, and seamer Aji Agarkar, recovering from a broken left thumb, were retained in the squad, subject to passing fitness tests.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik and seamer Vikram Pratap Singh will stand-by in case Yuvraj and Agarkar fail to make the tour which begins on November 16.

"It was disappointing that India did not make the semifinals of the Champions Trophy but we have enough matches left to finalise our team for the World Cup in the West Indies in March," said Vengsarkar.

After returning from the South African tour in January, India will play four matches each against Sri Lanka and the West Indies at home before leaving for the Caribbean in the last week of February.

Kumble said he was delighted to be back in the one-day squad.

"Limited-overs cricket is a young man's game but there is room for experience," said the veteran of 264 one-dayers. "I will fit

in well in this team."

India begin the six-week tour with a practice match against South Africa 'A' in Benoni on November 16.

The five one-dayers will be played in Johannesburg (November 19), Durban (November 22), Cape Town (November 26), Port Elizabeth (November 29) and Centurion (December 3).

A Twenty20 international, India's first, will be held in Johannesburg on December 1 between the fourth and fifth one-dayer.

The three Tests will be played in Johannesburg (December 15-19), Durban (Dec 26-20) and Cape Town (January 2-6).

SQUAD

Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Wasim Jaffer, Mohammad Kaif, Yuvraj Singh (Dinesh Karthik on stand-by), Suresh Raina, Dinesh Mongia, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar (Vikram Pratap Singh on standby), Munaf Patel, Shanthakumar, Sreesanth, Harbhajan Singh, Anil Kumble, Zaheer Khan.

# Wake-up call, says Dravid



BBC ONLINE, undated

India captain Rahul Dravid blamed inexperience but says his side will learn from the Champions Trophy after crashing out to Australia on Sunday.

The home side lost by six wickets against an impressive Australian outfit who cruised to their target of 250.

"They played much better cricket than us," said Dravid. "They bowled quite well and chased that target with clinical professionalism."

"It's been a very good tournament for us to see where we are at."

India's defeat means there will be no team from the sub-continent in the last four of a major tournament for the first time since the 1975 World Cup.

And Dravid admitted it could be a wake-up call ahead of next year's World Cup.

## Thrilling Palermo keep

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second yellow card for pulling his shirt over his head to celebrate his headed goal, which put Inter 4-1 up in the 68th minute.

His sending-off sparked a Milan fightback which brought them two late goals, but Inter, who were practically down to nine men with Patrick Vieira struggling to run after being injured and no substitutions left, held on for a precious win which took them three points clear at the top of Serie A.

"Everything was going really well until Materazzi's red card," said Mancini after his team's sixth victory in nine matches.

"Then we had a few players who were suffering, like Vieira, but I couldn't make any substitutions."

"Up until that moment we had dominated the game, and if we still had 11 players on the pitch we would have scored more. But a match can quickly change, due to a sending-off or an injury."

Argentine striker Hernan Crespo put Inter ahead in the 17th minute with an angled header and Serbian midfielder Dejan Stankovic's driven shot from outside the box gave the reigning champions a two-goal half-

time lead.

Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic increased Inter's advantage shortly after half time at the San Siro after good work from Stankovic, but Clarence Seedorf quickly pulled one back for Milan with a deflected shot.

Materazzi then went for an early bath after stealing in at the back post to put the finishing touch to Stankovic's cross, and that brought out the best in Milan.

Alberto Gilardino headed his first goal since April 22 before Kaka's lob in the first minute of five minutes of stoppage time ensured a nail-biting finale, but Inter's 10 men held on.

In Udine, central defender Matteo Ferrari scored the only goal in the 66th minute to become the 12th Roma player to find the net in the league this season.

Udinese were reduced to 10 men four minutes later when their Ghanaian midfielder Sulley Muntari was sent off, scuppering their hopes of clawing their way back into the match.

Sienna remain fourth after an impressive 1-0 win at Ascoli.

## Sevilla go second

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each of the three years since finishing second in 2003.

Real Betis crashed 1-0 at home to Real Mallorca and remain in relegation trouble, third from bottom, after Serb striker Bosco Jankovic scored from close-range after 81 minutes, connecting with a cross from Juan Arango.

"I know my job is in jeopardy but that's football and I'm a footballing man," admitted Betis coach Javier Irureta.

Betis had to play most of the match with 10 men after Uruguayan defender Alejandro Lembo was sent off after 34 minutes for hacking down Arango.

Getafe notched up their third successive victory and moved up to sixth with an impressive 2-0 win over Deportivo La Coruna, their goals coming from Manu Del Moral and Nacho Perez.

Ronaldinho scored twice to help Barcelona extend their lead at the top with a 3-0 win over Recreativo

Huelva on Saturday.

"Ronie" was again the determining factor. I'm happy with three goals even though we could have scored more," said Barcelona coach Fabio Capello of his worth.

However, since Capello's summer arrival from Juventus, Beckham has been reduced to virtually a fringe player and played barely 13 minutes of the league win over arch rivals Barcelona earlier this month.

The blossoming of Brazilian Robinho and the good form of Guti in midfield have limited his opportunities.

On Monday, Marca sports daily added to the speculation on Beckham's future with the headline: "Beckham - what are you going to do?"

The issue of Beckham possibly extending his contract has been floating around the club since the start of the season but Marca said that the veteran, discarded by England after the World Cup, had put off the decision to ascertain if he featured in Capello's plans.

"Beckham does not want to stay on in Madrid as a spectator," Marca noted.

## Clarke given

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said in the Sydney Morning Herald. "If we've got three quicks going well and Warney bowling well, that's really been the tried and tested method we've had over the years."

"If those guys are going well for you, you'd think Clarke would have his nose in front as a specialist batsman. If we've got some doubt about the bowlers, we might need another option, and Watson's probably got his nose in front there."

The first Test starts at the Gabba on November 23 and the ground's curator Kevin Mitchell Jr said at the weekend the pitch was unlikely to be a spinner's paradise. "I think we'll see plenty of pace and bounce out of this wicket, which traditionally favours the seamers, so that could be the way to go," he told The Courier-Mail. "It's always going to be a new-ball wicket so you probably want an attack that can make the most of that. If you don't get the batsmen out early you could be in a bit of strife so you might need the quicks to get stuck into them."

That could hurt Stuart MacGill's chances of playing alongside Shane Warne, which in turn would mean less demand for Watson's bowling if three fast men get the nod. It may also help the left-armed Mitchell Johnson's bid to make his Test debut on his home ground.

## Rijkaard praises

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Barca are in joint second spot in the group, level with Werder Bremen on four points, and five behind Chelsea after their 1-0 defeat at Stamford Bridge two weeks ago.

"We have already played several times against Chelsea and we know how they play," Rijkaard said.

"They are not as quick as they were in the counter-attack two years ago."

"They have some players with a lot of talent. Chelsea are playing in a different way, with Michael Ballack closer to the opponent's goal. We have freedom and Michael Essien and Frank Lampard can overlap him."