

Gooch warns against complacency

LONDON, June 20: England captain Graham Gooch brought his buoyant new England team down to earth on the eve of the second Test against West Indies with a warning that: "This is a crunch-match," reports AFP.

Viv Richards' Caribbean capypho kings know that they have to restore their reputation and are never as dangerous as when trailing in a series.

Gooch will not allow England to get carried away with their 1-15 run triumph at Headingley.

Lord's could prove different. The west Indies will be fired up after their defeat and will be coming at us hard we must be prepared," Gooch said.

Richards, meanwhile was talking ominously of the 'buzz that the Mecca of cricket' gives him.

West Indies' fastest bowler Patrick Apatterson is out of the Test with a calf muscle tear and the tourists again face a slow seaming pitch.

Both Richards and Gooch, whose magnificent unbeaten 154 decided the first Test, have superb record at Lords.

Five of Gooch's 14 Test hundreds have been made there, including his 333 against India last summer and he has scored 91 in the 1985 Natwest final and 120 in the 1979 Benson and Hedges Cup final.

Richards, who will be mak-

ing his last Test appearance at Lord's in front of virtual sell-out crowds for the first four days, has made hundreds there is the 1980 Test against England, the 1979 World Cup final, the 1979 Gillette Cup final and the 1981 Benson and Hedges final.

Richards must re-capture past form quickly if Gooch is not to follow up his Headingley show with a similar feat at Lord's.

England had not won at Headingley for 22 years before Gooch took his 12-month Test run aggregate to 1972, average 88, thirteen of his last 20 Test innings have been above 50.

Now he is faced with erasing from the record books the unwanted statistic that England have not beaten West Indies in a Test at Lord's since 1957.

England will decide on their lineup in the morning, with spinner Richard Illingworth likely to miss out of the second Test running and Steve Watkin favourite to be preferred to Gloucestershire's David Lawrence.

Gooch said: "This is a crunch match and we need to sustain the confidence and form we had at Headingley."

"But I still consider the West Indies to be the favourites in this series. They are the strongest side in world cricket and we have a lot to prove. We have got to be at the top of our form."

Richards said: "We know exactly what we have to do. We are not hiding from our mis-

takes at Headingley and we most certainly have a point to prove.

"If we put things together I would back one team, and that's the team I am leading."

SQUADS

England: G.A. Gooch (capt), MA Atherton, GA Hick, AJ Lamb, MR Ramprakash, RA Smith, RC Russell (wicket-keeper), DR Pringle, P.A.J. DeFreitas, S.J. Watkin, D.E. Malcooim, D.V. Lawrence, R.K. Illingworth.

West Indies: DL Haynes, PV Simmons, RB Richardson, CL Hooper, IVA Richards (capt), AL Logie, PUL Dujon (wicket-keeper), MD Marshall, CEL Ambrose, CA Walsh, IBA Allen, HAG Anthony, BC Lara.

(Umpires: KE Palmer and BJ Meyer.)



Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona (C) is surrounded by police and reporters on Wednesday as he leaves the Buenos Aires Court House where he testified on verbal abuse charges pressed against him by former Argentinian professional soccer player Jose Sanfilippo. Sanfilippo later withdrew the charges. —AFP photo

Windies 176 for two at tea

London, June 20: The West Indians scored 176 losing two wickets at tea on the first day of the second cricket Test against England at Lord's today, report agencies.

The visitors lost both their openers — Simmons and Haynes — just before and after lunch.

Ian Allen, from the Windward Island of St Vincent, was called up for his first appearance. Windies at lunch were 90 for one wicket.

SCOREBOARD

Tea score on the first day of the second Test today:	
West Indies first innings:	
Simmons c Lamb b Hick	33
Haynes c Russell b Pringle	60
Richardson not out	51
Hooper not out	20
Extras	12
Total (2 wkts)	176
Fall of wickets:	1-90, 2-102.

Martina marches on

EASTBOURNE, England, June 20: Martina Navratilova, the greatest Wimbledon competitor ever, has put up a keep off the grass warning, reports AFP.

Since being seeded only fourth in the women's singles at Wimbledon she has conceded just four games in three matches at the grasscourt championships here.

Three of those games slipped away as she beat Brenda Schultz, the 20-year-old Dutch girl on Wednesday.

Her highly impressive 6-1, 6-2 win took 36 one-sided minutes. Navratilova not only played superbly but lost only two points in eight service games.

She is in great shape for Wimbledon but considers that Jeffrey Graf will be a greater threat than either Monica Seles or Gabriela Sabatini as she bids for her 10th singles title at the All England Club.

Ironically, she made that statement without knowing that Graf is in her half of the draw.

Brenda, I did not go for any big serves because it was so windy. I just tried to get my first serve in with a lot of spin to move it in the air."

Navratilova agreed that Schultz has the fastest first serve in the women's game but unfortunately for the Dutch girl it did not often go in.

Pam Shriver, who was out of action for most of last year after a serious shoulder operation, is back enjoying her tennis. She beat Canadian Patricia Hy 6-2, 6-3 to reach the last eight and is looking forward to a quarter-final clash with Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

The Spanish second seed beat Australian Liz Smylie 6-3, 6-3.

Kabaddi league from July 28

Sports Reporter

The Metropolitan Kabaddi league, organised by Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, will begin from July 28 at the Outer Stadium Kabaddi Court.

All the interested teams have been asked to send their entries by July 18 along with fee of Taka 200.

The teams which have taken part in the national championship will not be eligible for participation in the league.

Meanwhile it is gathered that Uttara Motors Ltd will sponsor this year' national championship. The first phase begins from the first week of August at the four divisional grounds with the final round scheduled to start in Dhaka in September.

Welcome relief for Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, June 20: Fallen soccer star Diego Maradona appeared in court on Wednesday where another former Argentine player dropped a slander case against him involving a dispute over who was the greatest player ever, Maradona or Pele.

Former Argentine striker Jose Sanfilippo told reporters he had decided to drop the case in order to help Maradona overcome his problems. Maradona is out on bail on cocaine charges and is undergoing treatment for his drug problems.

Sanfilippo embraced Maradona as they left the courthouse.

Sanfilippo, who retired from soccer 19 years ago, had brought the charges last year after Maradona branded him a traitor for saying that Brazil's Pele was the greatest ever, not the former Argentine World Cup captain.

Maradona had made the comments while the Argentine squad was in Israel shortly before last year's World Cup finals. He had been asked for his reaction to remarks by Sanfilippo that he considered Pele soccer's best-ever player.

"Anyone who says that is a traitor," said Maradona who then threatened to give Sanfilippo a thrashing.

Maradona, 30, appeared in court wearing a dark, striped suit and looking relaxed, eye-witnesses said.

The stocky midfielder was arrested on April 26 and later freed on 20,000 dollars bail after being charged with possession of cocaine and supplying the drug free of charge to others.

Since then he had been treated by a medical team at his Buenos Aires apartment, leaving only occasionally to go jogging or to play paddle tennis or five-a-side soccer with friends.

Maradona's agent Marcos Franchi said on Wednesday that his Italian club Napoli had rejected a request that would allow him to return to Argentina once a month to continue treatment if Maradona decided to return to the game.

"The (Napoli) bosses should understand that Diego has started treatment and has changed his habits. Now it's up to them to change," the local Noticias Argentinas news agency quoted Franchi as saying.

Maradona has been banned from soccer until July 1992 for failing a dope test after an Italian league game in March.

He returned to Argentina in early April saying he wanted to give up the game as he was fed up with professional soccer.

Sanfilippo retired from soccer in 1972 after a long career with First Division club San Lorenzo.

"I want to collaborate with this grain of sand toward the total recovery of Maradona," Sanfilippo, 57, told reporters as he left the central courthouse.

"Diego is ready to return to Napoli," Franchi said in an interview published Wednesday in the newspaper Clarin.

Last week, Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino said he wants Maradona back for the 1992-93 season. Maradona led Argentina to the 1986 World Cup and second place in the 1990 World Cup. He led Napoli to Italian League titles in 1987 and 1990 and the UEFA Cup.

Wimbledon needs more than youth

LONDON, June 20: In the brass world of modern tennis, youth is a highly prize commodity, reports Reuter.

But title holders Stefan Edberg and Martina Navratilova know that age and experience are what count when it comes to Wimbledon.

The fans next week may be there to inspect Andre Agassi's latest outfit or marvel at the precocity of 15-year-old Jennifer Capriati. But they will put their money on the old hands.

"It takes a long time to learn to play on grass," Edberg, 25, said after winning the Queen's Club title on his favourite surface last weekend.

The Swede should know. He has fought the last three Wimbledon finals against Boris Becker, winning in 1988 and 1990.

Before the Australian Open moved to an artificial surface in 1988, grass court tennis was a more widely practised art form.

Now that the grass season is confined to about five weeks a year, Edberg sees many younger players struggling.

"I think the older guys have an advantage from the days

when we played two Grand Slams on grass," he said.

There are fewer grass court masters around these days, but luckily for Edberg several appear in his quarter of the draw.

The world number one, who opens on Centre Court on Monday against Switzerland's Marc Rosset, could find himself facing John McEnroe in the fourth round and then possibly US Open champion Pete Sampras, Pat Cash, Goran Ivanisevic - or Jimmy Connors.

While McEnroe or Connors may not do particularly well, the two who hold five Wimbledon singles titles between them should add much-needed colour.

Tennis these days is a serious business, with few personalities in the mould of Connors, McEnroe or Ilie Nastase.

Connors in now 38 and had originally planned to be at Wimbledon only as a television commentator. But he enjoyed himself so much at the French Open, when he won two of four sets against 19-year-old Michael Chang in the third round before retiring exhausted, that he changed his mind and applied for a wild card.

Edberg sees second-seeded

Becker as his main rival but says he will also be looking out for Ivan Lendl, who should play the German in the semifinals. Sampras, Becker's compatriot Michael Stich and Cash, the 1987 champion.

After several years of injuries, Cash proved he was back in form by reaching the Beckenham final earlier this month and the quarter-final at Queen's-where he fell to Edberg.

The Australian will be unseeded at Wimbledon, despite his pedigree.

"Cash is a threat to anybody on grass," Edberg said. "He is one of the best grass court players there is."

Match inexperience on grass could prove costly for Agassi, who comes up against Canadian Grant Connell-upset winner against Lendl at Queen's last week-in the first round.

Though Agassi flew straight to Florida to practise on grass after losing the French Open final the American has played only one match on the fast surface in his career-when he lost in the Wimbledon first round in 1987.

His conqueror in Paris, Compatriot Jim Courier, has also returned home to prepare for Wimbledon. He, too, is not

given much chance next week but he has a good draw and should sail through his early matches.

The problem of switching to grass could also hit Yugoslav Monica Seles's attempt at get the third leg of the Grand Slam.

Though the 17-year-old world number one reached the quarter-finals last year, her game is not suited to grass.

The Australian and French Open champion swears she has been learning to volley in practice but her rivals say they have yet to see her try in a match.

With last year's finalist Zina Garrison, who beat her and Steffi Graf last year, as a probable quarter-final opponent assuming the American has fully recovered from a stomach muscle injury-seles could have problems.

Navratilova intends to show the Wimbledon committee they were wrong to overlook her record nine singles titles and seeded her only fourth.

But before she can pocket 10th title, the American could have to get past Graf, who beat her in the 1988 and 1989 finals, in the last four.

Christie defies German blitzkrieg

LONDON, June 20: Britain's European Cup preparations were re-hit by a series of hiccupps as three of Linford Christie's front-line troops suffered shock defeats in the historic international against Germany at Crystal Palace on Wednesday, reports AFP.

While Christie led by example with a brilliant sprint double and his men ran out overwhelming winners against their formidable rivals — there were unwelcome reverses for Tom McKean, Colin Jackson and Peter Elliott.

Christie's triumph helped Britain's men squeeze to a 198-197 triumph, while Germany's women won 169-133.

What should have been a perfect dress rehearsal for Britain's bid to retain the Cup in Frankfurt next week was tarnished by McKean's loss to brian Whittle in the 800m. Jackson's sluggish hurdles loss Tony Jarrett and Elliott's tactical ineptitude in the 1,500m.

But with Roger Black recording a magnificent 400m win and other morale-boosting triumphs for Kriss Akabusi and Steve Backley, chances of a repeat of the Gateshead triumph two years ago are still high.

But Christie must have been



LINFORD CHRISTIE — the conqueror.

slightly concerned that McKean, favourite to win his fourth successive European Cup title next week, was passed by his fellow Scot and great friend Whittle after tying up in the home straight.

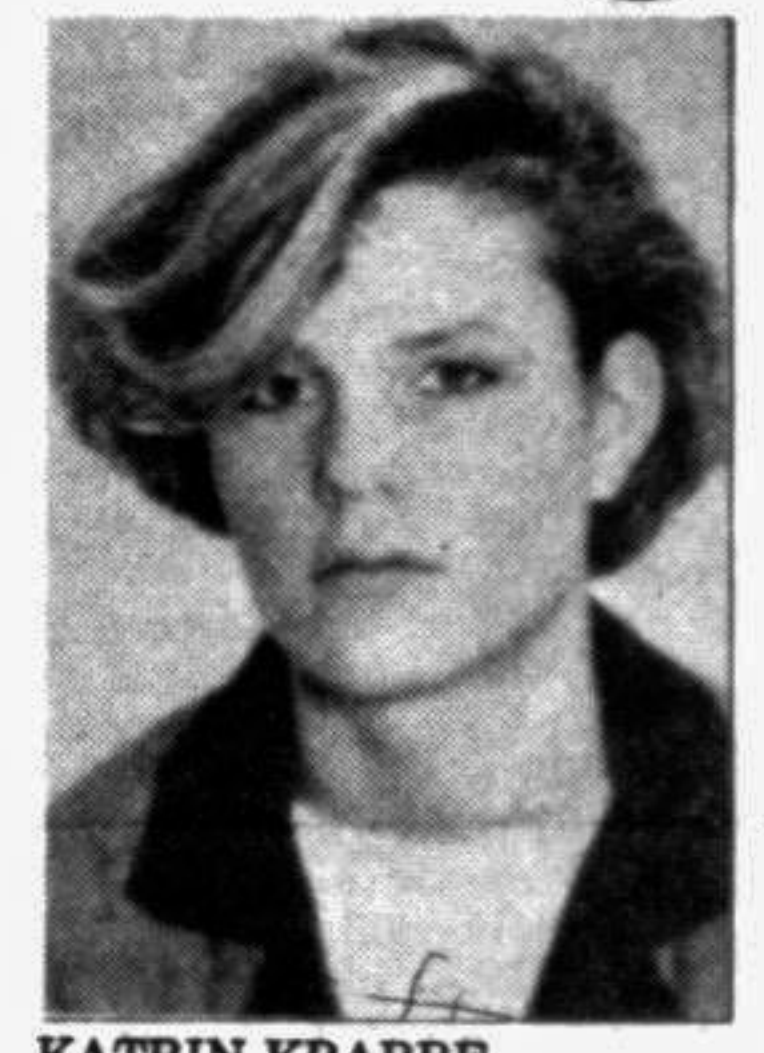
And his pal Jackson's form was positively sluggish as the young pretender Jarrett, who finished inches behind him in the European Championships, comfortably turned the tables to win by a couple of strides in 13.38 secs.

"I'm suffering from not racing enough, said the Welshman, who is attempting to recover his best form after his knee surgery. But I'm not too worried at the moment.

Neither is Elliott — but scalded himself after getting boxed in on the penultimate bend of his European championship rematch and finding his late charge was not quite enough to snatch victory.

The Yorkshireman had the satisfaction of pipping European champion Jens-Peter Herold at the line, but found himself half a stride adrift to Hauke Fuhlbrugge, the man who pushed him to the ground in their controversial heat in Split.

Tactically, it was a mess and it's disappointing to lose in front of your home crowd,"



KATRIN KRABBE — notable absentee

admitted Elliott. But he can be expected to be sharper for next week's likely rematch with Herold.

Black turned in the performance of the night, a dazzling 44.91secs run which was the second quickest one lap ever recorded by a British athlete on home soil.

Akabusi enjoyed a straightforward one-lap hurdles win, and the women, despite losing to the world's most powerful female team, had their own heroines.

Nasirabad win Ctg jr cricket

CHITTAGONG, June 20: Nasirabad Sporting Club won the title of the Metropolitan junior cricket competition beating West Ashkardighi Boys Club by six wickets at the Dampara Police Line ground here today, reports BSS.

Ashkardighi batted first and were all out for 90 in 28.2 overs. Hero of Ashkardighi top scored with 21 followed by Sukkur, 14, and Rasheed, 13.

Satful and Bltob of Nasirabad claimed two wickets each for 7 and 12 runs respectively while Fin, Tuhin and Shaymol took one wicket each.

In reply, Nasirabad scored 91 for the loss of only four wickets in 24.4 overs. Shaymol with an unbeaten 23 was the topscorer for Nasirabad while Shumi added 19 runs.

Morshed of Ashkardighi snatched three wickets for 20 runs.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner and president of Chittagong Metropolitan Sports Association M. Wahidul Haq gave away the prizes among the winners.

Zia memorial chess results

Sports Reporter

Three players — Monturuzaman, Rezul Kabir and Golam Mohiuddin — were jointly leading the points table with five points each after the completion of the fifth round matches of the Shaheed Zia memorial chess tournament yesterday at the Moonlight Gymnasium, Manikdi, Dhaka Cantonment.

M K Chowdhury was placed in the second position with four points.

Jahangir is player of the year

LONDON, June 20: Pakistan legend Jahangir Khan has been named player-of-the-year by a British squash magazine, reports AFP.

Squash Player chose the world number two for winning his 10th successive British open title in April.

England's Lisa Opie, winner of the women's crown at Wembley for the first time, was selected as the women's player-of-the-year.

Agassi to respect Wimbledon tradition

NEW YORK, June 20: Andre Agassi, the flamboyant American who had refused to tone down his often garish tennis clothes in order to play Wimbledon, said on Wednesday he has learned to appreciate the tradition behind the venerable tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

"It's no question I've learned the place that tradition holds and this is a change for me," said Agassi in a phone interview from Ponte Vedra, Florida. "Initially I had a hard time understanding tradition and the place it plays."

Agassi, 21, is scheduled to leave for London today and has packed some undisclosed tennis clothes for Wimbledon that will conform to its conservative regulations.

"Tradition has its place and it's exciting to be part of it. It was a silly thing to think that Wimbledon could inconvenience me," said Agassi, who has not played at Wimbledon since 1987.

"Wimbledon is Wimbledon and that expresses it all. I like to change and going to play is a change in itself and that's pretty exciting," he said.

Just 10 days after losing his second consecutive French Open final on the clay courts in Paris, Agassi is upbeat about his chances after a smooth transition to grass courts in practice this week.

"It has been tremendously easier than expected... I thought it would be much

tougher," said Agassi, who will be seeded fifth at Wimbledon. "If these first few days are any indication I'm excited how I'm going to play. It has come Rees KOs Hansen in five seconds

BRISBANE, Australia, June 20: Junior-middleweight boxer Paul Rees may have set a world record by winning a fight in just five seconds, Australian officials said Thursday, reports AP.

Rees was declared a TKO winner over rival Brisbane boxer Charlie Hansen after only five seconds of the first round of their four-round bout on Wednesday night.

The pair exchanged just one flurry of blows before the contest was halted. Danish-born Hansen was hit by a left to the head and complained of double vision. Referee Alan Simpson immediately stopped the bout and raised Rees' hand in victory.

English FA unveils new plans

Players question 'Super League'

LONDON, June 20: The Football Association's plan for a super league came in for scathing criticism with Players' Union chief Gordon Taylor questioning whether it will improve the lot of his 2,000 members, reports AFP.

"We are concerned at the manner in which these proposals for the game have been written, recommending the break-up of an institution that has stood the test of time without any guarantee that the blueprint will bring any improvement," Taylor said.

"They seem to be looking after the interests of the few without looking after the majority with big clubs taking most of the money."

"We have over 2,000 members whose income is tied up with the Football League and there has to be an assessment of what's best for everyone. We can't just abdicate responsibility for three-quarters of our members not involved with the new Premier League.

"What is proposed would involve players in new contracts, disciplinary procedure, insurance and many other things not agreed with the FA."

And Taylor challenged: "There's not a lot wrong with English football as it is. For the fifth successive season attendances have increased and the game is booming at a time when business in general is on the decline."

"If changes have been made to benefit the England team, I can't understand why. We did well in the World Cup and when our clubs returned to European competition."

"People should remember half the England team and the current manager came from clubs in the lower division."

The Football Supporters' Association launched a scathing attack on FA chief executive Graham Kelly's document, labelling it "arrogant and impertinent."

FSA chairman Craig Brewin added: "The FA clearly does not understand the game that it seeks absolute control over."

The blueprint contains loquacious praise for the achievements of the FSA and other supporters groups, but then goes on to state that the FA will establish its own supporters' organisation to try to develop them further.

"There is clearly a fundamental misunderstanding of why the FSA has been successful. The recommendations do not tie in at all with the intentions set out in the text and look like the product of an internal argument at the FA."

The Football Association were accused of theft by Football League chief executive Arthur Sandford over the blueprint document.

"However, he made it clear: 'We are fundamentally opposed to the FA's proposal for a Premier League which we believe is divisive and elitist.'

Sandford echoed his surprise at the FA's forecast of 112 million of commercial income in the first season of any super league, saying: 'I call on Graham Kelly to openly publish the exact breakdown of these figures for all to see.'

Lankans name side to tour England

COLOMBO, June 20: Schoolboy off-spinner Muralitharan has been named in Sri Lanka's 16-strong party for the tour of England, starting next month, reports Reuter.

Muralitharan, 18, was the leading wicket-taker in the recently concluded schools' cricket season.

Eleven members of the party who toured New Zealand in January have been retained but captain Arjuna Ranatunga was not among them.

Sports Minister Nanda Mathew has denied that Ranatunga's controversial omission was politically motivated. "There have been no political considerations behind this decision. The selection committee has acted in good faith," Mathew said.

Ranatunga's father, Reggie Ranatunga, is a member of Parliament for the opposition Freedom Party.

Nat'l wrestling from July 30

Sports Reporter

The sixteenth national wrestling championships organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation will commence from July 30 at the National Coaching Centre.

All the affiliated bodies of the federation have been asked to send in their entries by July 25 at the federation office.

Meanwhile, in another development, the eighth national junior wrestling championships will begin from July 26-28 at the National Coaching Centre.

Mathew said serious charges against Ranatunga's conduct in domestic matches had been made. He had been warned several times and there had been claims he had behaved improperly.

Sri Lanka's batting strength will again revolve around new captain Aravinda De Silva and his deputy Asanka Gurusinghe, mainstays of the New Zealand tour in which all three Tests were drawn.

Fast bowler Graeme Labrooy is unavailable for the tour for personal reasons but medium pacer Saliya Ahangama returns to international duty after a six-year absence.

Ahangama took 18 wickets in his three Tests before illness and loss of form forced him out.

The five-week tour includes on Test at Lord's starting on August 22.

Squad: Arvinde De Silva (captain).