

Smith to lead Kiwis in third Test

AUCLAND (New Zealand), Feb 28: Wicketkeeper Ian Smith will captain New Zealand in place of injured Martin Crowe for the third and deciding cricket Test against Sri Lanka starting on Friday, reports Reuter.

Crowe twisted an ankle in this week's drawn second Test in Hamilton.

"I am unfit for the Test. I've had no joy with the ankle and it is still painful," he told reporters.

Although Crowe hit a massive 299 to save New Zealand in the drawn first Test, the home side might not be entirely unhappy to be without him.

He has lost eight tosses in a

row, and when he was sidelined by injury last year New Zealand overwhelmed an Australian side which had recently humiliated England.

Smith, who in Hamilton equalled the world Test record of seven catches in an innings, will be leading New Zealand for the first time in a Test.

"I've never really thought of myself as a Test captain," he said.

Smith, 33, should enjoy Auckland's Eden Park, where he came in at number nine against India last year to smash 173 off 136 balls in just 73 scoring shots.

New Zealand will attack under his captaincy, he promised.

"As far as I'm concerned we haven't come through the sea-

likely to play the same side as at Hamilton.

The Eden Park pitch has rarely produced a result in recent years and with weak bowling on both sides, the odds must be on a 0-0 draw.

Probable teams:

New Zealand: Ian Smith (captain), Trevor Franklin, John Wright, Andrew Jones, Mark Greatbatch, Ken Rutherford, Shane Thomson, Dipak Patel, Chris Cairns, Danny Morrison, Willie Watson.

Sri Lanka: Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Charith Senanayake, Chandika Hathurusinghe, Asanka Gurusinha, Arvind De Silva, Hashan Tillekeratne, Sanath Jayasuriya, Asoka De Silva, Graeme Labrooy, Ramesh Ranjivake, Champaka Ramanayake.

likely to play the same side as at Hamilton.

The Eden Park pitch has rarely produced a result in recent years and with weak bowling on both sides, the odds must be on a 0-0 draw.

Probable teams:

New Zealand: Ian Smith (captain), Trevor Franklin, John Wright, Andrew Jones, Mark Greatbatch, Ken Rutherford, Shane Thomson, Dipak Patel, Chris Cairns, Danny Morrison, Willie Watson.

Sri Lanka: Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Charith Senanayake, Chandika Hathurusinghe, Asanka Gurusinha, Arvind De Silva, Hashan Tillekeratne, Sanath Jayasuriya, Asoka De Silva, Graeme Labrooy, Ramesh Ranjivake, Champaka Ramanayake.

Abbasi resigns

KARACHI, Feb 28: Pakistani cricket administrator Arif Ali Khan Abbasi has resigned after overseeing the country's rise to one of the world's best cricketing sides, reports Reuter.

Abbasi said in an interview today he was quitting after two terms as secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) for personal reasons.

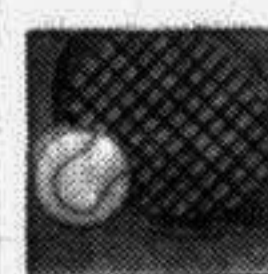
"I have many personal things and business to do," he said.

"I have no time. I have to look after property and business too."

Abbasi held the job from 1980 to 1984 and was again appointed in 1988 for three years.

Cricket officials said the BCCP had asked Abbasi to continue but had reluctantly agreed to his decision and appointed a senior bureaucrat, Shahid Rafi, to take over.

McEnroe struggles to win



CHICAGO, Feb 28: Top-seeded John McEnroe relied largely on his passing shots Wednesday night to beat India's Ramesh Krishnan 7-5, 6-3 in a second-round match at the Chicago Volvo tennis tournament, reports AP.



JOHN McENROE

In a quarterfinal match Friday, McEnroe next will face unseeded Alexander Mronz of Germany, a 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 upset winner over displayed a steady ground game, forcing his opponent to knock several returns over the end line.

McEnroe, serving as fast as 116 mph (185 kmph), recorded 11 aces and seven service winners.

Saying he had no struggle to beat Krishnan for the 10th time in his career, McEnroe evened the first set in the 10th game when he broke Krishnan. The left-hander then fell behind 0-30 in the 11th game before holding serve with two consecutive service winners.

Krishnan lost his serve and the set in the 12th game, knocking the ball into the net on set point.

In the second set, McEnroe broke Krishnan in the sixth game and rallied from a love-40 deficit to save serve in the seventh game.

McEnroe then closed out the match in the ninth game when Krishnan sailed a return wide.

"It was a question of my hanging in there because I've always had difficulty against him," McEnroe said.

"It was slower for me in the beginning than I thought it would be," he added, "but I played well on the big points."

Earlier Wednesday in second-round play, Mali Vai Washington upset third-seeded Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia. Washington used his booming

serve and steady ground game to beat Korda 6-4, 7-6 (7-5).

Washington, a former university of Michigan star, recorded nine aces in the 86-minute match, serving up to 120 mph (192 kmph) according to court-side radar machines.

In the first set, Washington broke Korda in the fifth game to take a 3-2 lead, then held serve to capture the set with a hard passing shot in the backhand court.

In the second set, Korda broke Washington in the second game, but was broken back in the seventh game. Washington was down 0-30 in the 12th game before rallying to hold service.

In the tiebreaker, Washington overcame a 4-1 deficit. On match point, Korda double-faulted.

No. 2 seed Richey Reneberg advanced with a 6-3, 7-6 (7-2) victory over David Pate.

Reneberg, coming off a rotator cuff injury sustained in November, and Pate traded service breaks in the second and fifth games of the first set. Reneberg then broke his opponent again in the eighth game before holding serve to capture the set.

In the second set, lost his serve in the seventh game, but broke right back. He jumped out to a 4-0 before capturing the tiebreaker.

Tyson-Ruddock bout Mar 18

MEXICO CITY, Feb 28: The World Boxing Council (WBC) says that Mike Tyson and Razor Ruddock will be fighting for the "interim" heavyweight title on March 18 pending the outcome of an arbitration involving the otherwise undisputed champion Evander Holyfield, reports Reuter.

The WBC has threatened to strip Holyfield because it insists that Tyson, its top-ranked contender, should have had first shot at Holyfield, who won the undisputed crown when he knocked out James "Buster" Douglas last October.

Holyfield, with the blessing of the World Boxing Association



MIKE TYSON

declare the winner of the Tyson-Ruddock match in Las Vegas its "interim" title holder since the arbitration decision was not expected by the March 18 bout.

Lamazon said the WBC had grown tired of waiting for the arbitration process.

"We are just not willing to stand around any longer with our arms crossed doing nothing," he told Reuters on Wednesday.

Tyson lost the title to Douglas last February in one of the biggest boxing surprises ever.

The WBC, however, ruled that the Tyson-Ruddock winner must face the winner of Holyfield-Foreman to determine "the definitive holder" of the WBC title, Lamazon said.

The Holyfield camp views the WBC decision as the latest move in a power struggle waged by Tyson promoter Don King to gain leverage for a bigger purse share of a future Tyson-Holyfield clash.

"Being undisputed heavyweight champion has great value," said Kathy Duva, speaking on behalf of Holyfield's promoters in a telephone interview in New York.

"It's all about how to split up maybe 35 million dollars in a purse for a fight they will have someday."

Yusupov takes lead

LINARES (Spain), Feb 28: Soviet Grandmaster Artur Yusupov inched into first place after Wednesday's fourth round of the Linares International chess tournament, when he adjourned a match against former world champion Anatoly Karpov, reports Reuter.

Yusupov led in overall standings with three points but in the adjourned match he was in the weaker position after six hours of play.

Alexander Beljavski, the Russian who shared first place with Yusupov in the third round, dropped into a two-way tie for the second position after being defeated by Yugoslav Grandmaster Ljubomir Ljujovic.

World champion Garry Kasparov moved up from sixth place to a three-way tie for third after he won an impressive game against Mikhail Gurevich, who is playing under the Belgian flag.

The tournament's youngest player, 16-year-old Gata Kamsky of the United States, lost to the Soviet Union's Vasily Ivanchuk, while Briton

Jonathan Speelman drew with Dutchman Jan Timman. Valery Salov lost to fellow Russian Boris Gelfand, despite having the advantage for much of the game.

Grandmaster Jan Ehlvest, who says he is representing the Soviet Baltic Republic of Estonia, drew with India's Visuvanathan Anand after 50 moves.

Today is a free day when Karpov plays two adjourned games, first a third-round game against Ljujovic then a fourth-round game with Yusupov.

In the fifth round on Friday, Kasparov faces Speelman and Karpov plays Ivanchuk.

Standings after four rounds: Yusupov three points, one game adjourned; Beljavski, Ivanchuk three

Timman, Anand, Kasparov 2-1/2; Gelfand 2; Ljujovic 1-1/2 one game adjourned; Speelman 1-1/2; Karpov one, two adjourned; Kamski, Ehlvest, Salov one; Gurevich half.

Jansher crushes Hill

MADRID, Feb 28: World Squash champion Jansher Khan, bidding to win a 10th consecutive Grand Prix tournament, crushed Australian Anthony Hill 15-9, 15-7, 15-5 in the first round of the Spanish Open on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

But progress was not so easy for Rodney Martin, the world number five who lost to Pakistani Jansher in the final here last season.

The Australian struggled to a 5-15, 15-9, 15-8, 7-15, 15-7 victory over Jilien Bonetat, the 19-year-old French number one who is ranked 49th in the world.

Six-time world champion Jahangir Khan, who suffered the most humiliating defeat of his career when beaten in just 43 minutes by Martin in the semifinals of the Madrid tournament last year, still looked well short of his best form when edging through 15-13, 15-13, 15-12 against England's John Ransome.

Jahangir next plays Del Harris, the English number two, while Jansher takes on England captain Bryan Beeson, one of only two British players to whom he has lost in the past four years.

British sprinters to attack record

LONDON, Feb 28: A quartet of British sprinters announced on Wednesday they would attack the seven-year-old men's world 4x200 metre indoor record at the Athletics International against the United States in Glasgow on Sunday, reports Reuter.

"It is definitely within our capabilities," John Regis, World indoor 200 metres champion, said in a statement.

Italy set the record of one minute 22.42 seconds in 1984. A British team attempted to beat that last year but clocked one minute 22.99 seconds.

Regis will be joined for the fresh attempt by Linford Christie, Darren Braithwaite and Ade Mafe.

In the 60 metres Christie will face American Andre Casson, who beat Canadiana Ben Johnson on his comeback from suspension over the same distance in Los Angeles earlier this month.

Maleeva wins easy

PALM SPRINGS (California), Feb 28: Third seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria easily advanced to the third round of the 350,000-dollar Virginia Slims of Palm Springs tennis tournament on Wednesday, but several matches were washed out by a rare desert rainstorm, reports Reuter.

Maleeva, ranked seventh in the world, was beating Pascale Paradis handily 6-1, 2-0 when the 116th-ranked Frenchwoman twisted her left ankle and was forced to retire.

Maleeva kept the net rushing Paradis lunging and stretching with accurate passing shots until Paradis suffered the injury while racing to retrieve a drop shot in the third game of the second set.

Second seed Martina Navratilova was set to play fellow American Ginger Helgeson in one of six matches postponed by the first rain in this desert community in eight weeks.

Australia - W. Indies series 90-91

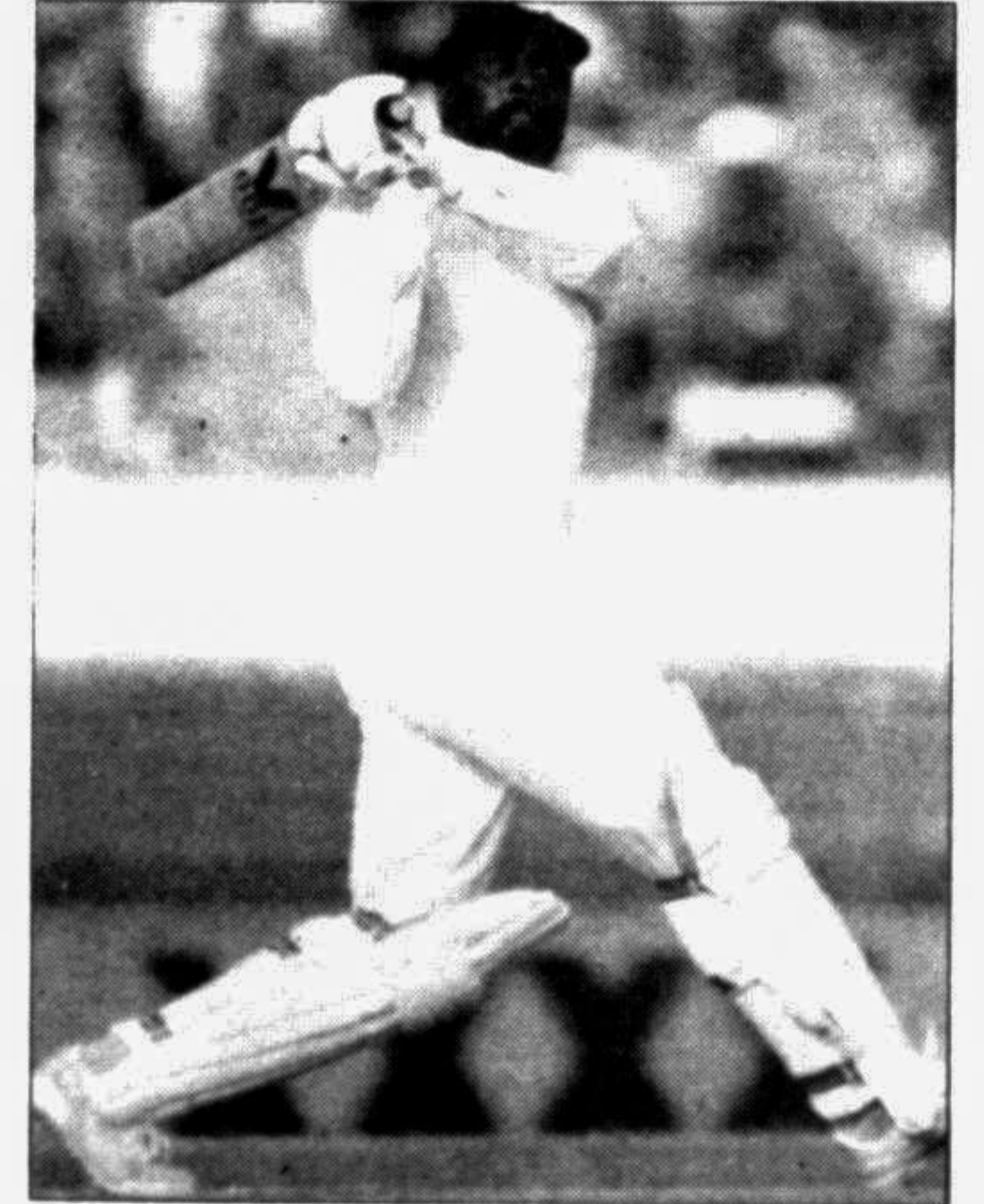
A.Z. Khan

It is already being billed as the unofficial championship bout of the cricket world. The Australia-West Indies clash of 90-91 will decide if the kangaroo can displace the calypso from the pinnacle of cricket heights. The West Indies have been the uncrowned king of cricket for more than a decade. They have never lost a series since their defeat at the hands of New Zealand way back in 1979-80. And they have never lost a rubber at home since 1973. Pakistan came nearest to turn the tide when they became the only side to share a series with West Indies in the Caribbean in the last decade. They have been invincible in the 80s, winning 45 tests and losing only 8. They won 14 rubbers and shared 5 with no loss.

It is a tremendous record, unequalled in the annals of Test cricket. And the visiting Australians have a daunting task in hand to lower the West Indian pennant. But it is also true that the present Australian side is better equipped than any other contemporary Test side to take on the West Indians. Pakistan's pace attack may be sharper, but Australia have the greater depth in batting, and their fielding is perhaps the best in present cricket.

Their morale is high after a chain of victories over England, Sri Lanka and Pakistan in recent years including the Ashes series of 89 and 90-91. And they were decisively the better team against Pakistan in 89-90. In fact, since losing to W. Indies in the first 3 Tests in 88-89, Australia have lost only one match - to New Zealand - out of 20 Tests, while winning in 10.

Their opening batsmen, Taylor and Marsh, are among the best in the world and are quite capable of laying a strong foundation for the solid Australian middle order. Boon is in peak form as his recent performance shows. Jones was not at his best against England in the Ashes series, but he is too good a batsman to be in the wilderness for long. And his record against West Indies is good, including a double century. Border, even though he has lost his century - making touch temporarily - can still be termed the best batsman in Australia. He has continued to play some sterling innings and has been the most consistently reliable. Steve Waugh is still a very good player and cannot be written off on the basis of one performance. But he will now be given a good run for his money by no other person than



VIVIAN RICHARDS

his twin brother Mark, who burst into the Test scene with a dazzling century against England in the recent Ashes Test at Adelaide.

Coming out of the dressing room, in the lower middle order, will be a man the West Indies may find hard to dislodge. Greg Matthews in a difficult customer and Australia would look up to him for rescue acts if the top half evaporates against the Caribbean blitzkrieg. Australia's batting will be further bolstered by Veletta and the fighting keeper - batsman, Healy. The latter has time and again salvaged his country from tight positions.

Australia's fast attack is penetrative and more than adequate to take on the present West Indian line-up. The new Bruce Reid did some fantastic acts in the series against England and will be the leading attack bowler. If Wasim Akram troubled them in Pakistan this season, then West Indies can expect a Reid rampage. McDermott and Alderman will be excellent partners to him in their own ways. The one with the pace and brawn and the other with the swing and brain. To back them up will be the man with the impossible hair style and the macho moustache. Hughes will match his threatening looks with the

talent to pick up wickets with sweet regularity and undiminished ferocity. As for the spinners, let us say they will also bowl. Matthews, Taylor and Border are not expected to provide any flutter, not even in Port of Spain.

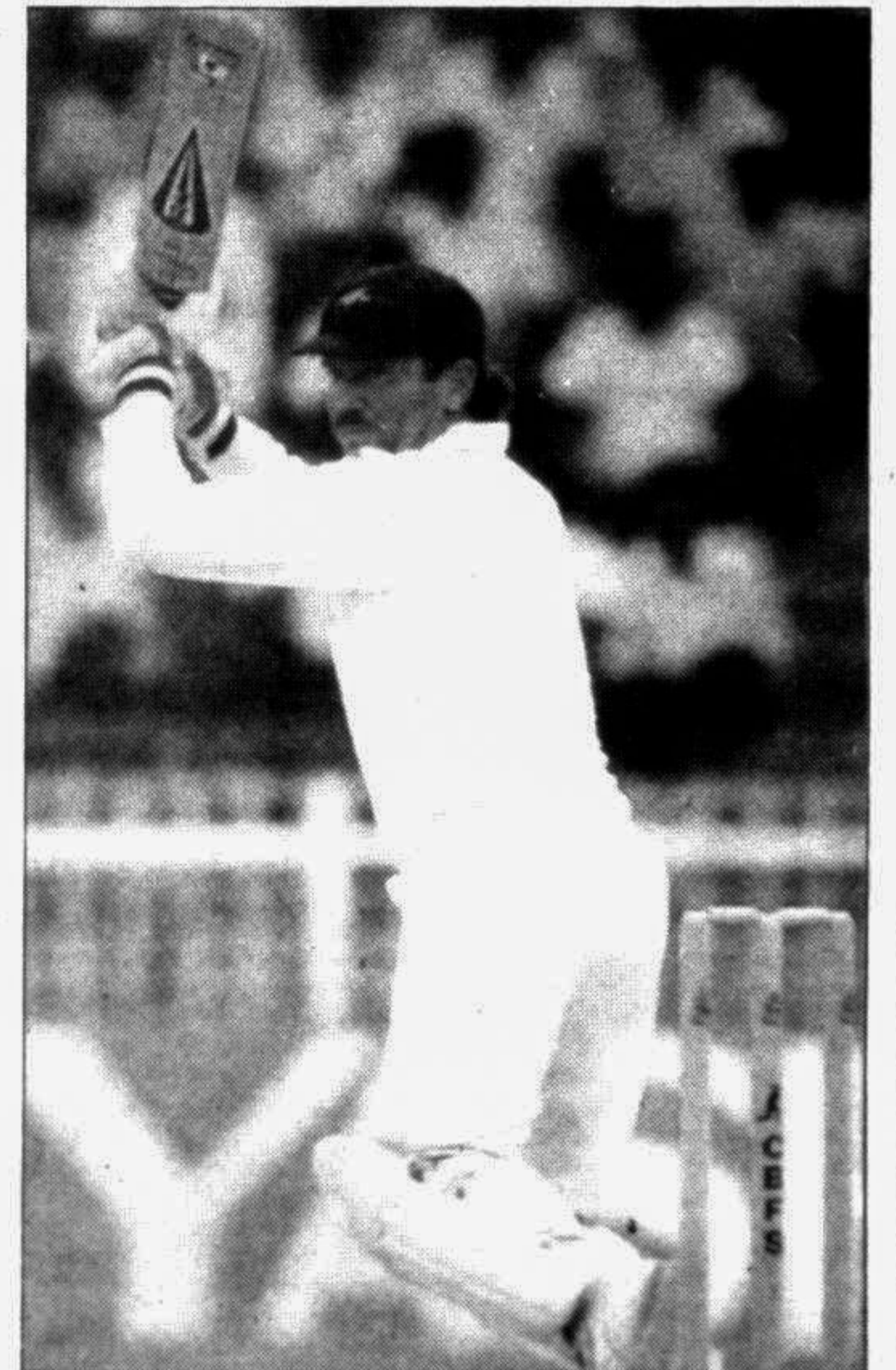
Compared to the Australians, the West Indies batting side has proved to be brittle and inconsistent in the last few years. They have a power house opening pair, perhaps the best in the world, with Haynes as the leading partner. He is undoubtedly the

fails to conjure up a top-class performance against Australia. The best rated batsman in West Indies today is Richie Richardson. He has been the most reliable and can take any attack apart when at his best. The Caribbean batting will greatly rely on him. Richards, not unlike Gower, is now an enigma. In the twilight of a glorious Test career, it would be too much to expect magic from his bat every time he goes to the crease. But then, when in form, he may still set St. John's or Bridgetown ablaze. The rest of the West Indian batting lacks the hard core of the yester years. But among them is Logie. The diminutive cricketer has played some brilliant innings in his career, but lacks consistency. Others like Arthurton, Hooper and Best have great potentials but are yet to establish their class at the highest level. The most exciting prospect is the young Brian Lara, who made an impressive debut against Pakistan and has batted magnificently in domestic and international cricket at home. He may well be the West Indian batsman of the nineties. Dujon's place both as wicket-keeper and batsman may be in jeopardy if some of the upcoming keepers make a serious claim for inclusion.

In spite of the lack of solidity in batting, West Indies kept flying high in the 80s because of their fearsome pace attack. Throughout the decade, they have always found four bowlers forming a murderous quartet that have left opponents in tatters.

From the heady days of Holding, Roberts, Garner and Croft, they have continued to produce fast bowlers with amazing regularity. The present bunch is as awesome as any in the past. The old warrior Marshall may lack his old punch, but can still deliver some knock-out blows as the Pakistanis would testify. But the pick of the pack is the menacing pair of Ambrose and Bishop. However, due to an injury, Bishop may not bowl at all in the forthcoming encounters.

This will be a great blow to West Indies and put added responsibility on the shoulders of Ambrose. But the side can rely on Walsh, the work-horse of the team to deliver the goods at critical times. Standing in the wings and eager to get back into the side will be Pat-



ALLAN BORDER

terson, Gray, Baptiste and Benjamin. The spin bowling will continue to fall short of Test standards. There is simply no class bowler to make a dent in

edge. And who knows, like it has always happened, out of the Caribbean blue will emerge a new name hurling his thunderbolts at the cadrum of the visitors.

Australia would be more than eager to erase the humiliations they have suffered in the last fifteen years. They have not won a series against West Indies since 1975-76, and never won a Test match under the Caribbean skies after 1977-78. But these are the stuff for the archives. Border would like to change the present trend of cricket history and bring the West Indies down from the victory stand of the 80's. But that is a tall order. The West Indies are still a domineering foe and force and would not yield without a fight as they showed against England and Pakistan in their last two series. All said and done, one would still like to wager on the Sir Frank Worrell Trophy dancing to the tune of the calypso beat, rather than rustling in the outback.



DESMOND HAYNES

Cruyff undergoes by-pass surgery

BARCELONA, Feb 28: Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff had a quiet night after heart surgery on Wednesday and on waking asked how his side fared in a Spanish Cup tie, team doctor Carles Bestit said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

"Johan spent a quiet night and know was how the cup match went and who scored the goals," Bestit, who visited Cruyff in hospital, told reporters.

First Division leaders Barcelona beat second Division Las Palmas 6-0 in a second round second leg tie at Nou Camp Stadium on Wednesday night, just after the 43-year-old Dutchman underwent double by-pass surgery for blocked heart arteries.

Doctors at Barcelona's Sant Jordi surgical centre, where the three-hour operation was performed, said Cruyff was recovering normally. He is expected to stay in intensive care for two more days.

Cruyff suffered a mild heart attack on Tuesday and was taken to the Sant Jordi specialist unit, where doctors decided after tests that surgery was necessary.

Doctor have said he will be in hospital for about two weeks and need complete rest for two months.

FIFA's plans for goalkeepers

ZURICH, Feb 28: The International Football Federation (FIFA) is planning a new rule to prevent goalkeepers holding on to the ball for more than six seconds, a spokesman said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The International Football Association Board (IFAB), FIFA's rule making body, will consider the recommendation at a meeting in June.

The new measure would operate alongside the existing rule which allows a goalkeeper to take only four steps before getting rid of the ball.

The four-step rule worked for a while, FIFA spokesman Andreas Herron said.

But now some goalkeepers try to get around the regulation by just standing still for a long time while continuing to hold the ball.