

Semifinals today

Sports Reporter

The men's and women's semi-finals matches of the eight Pepsi Asian Cup table tennis tournament will be held today at the BKSP gymnasium.

The matches will begin at 4 PM.

Wang Yong Gang and Xiong Ke of China, Lee Chul Seung of South Korea and Kim Guk Chol of North Korea moved into the semifinals in the men's singles after winning their quarter-final matches.

In the quarter-finals, Wang

eliminated Takehiro Watanabe of Japan 21-18, 19-21, 21-17 and 21-8, Xiong beat Chu Kyo Sung of South Korea 21-18, 10-21, 11-21, 21-15 and 21-11, Lee Chul Seung defeated Wu Wen China of Chinese Taipei 21-19, 21-19 and 21-12 while Kim Guk Chol beat Chung Weiwei of China 21-15, 19-21, 21-10, 18-21 and 21-15.

Wang will clash with Kim while Xiong will play Lee Chul in the semi-finals.

Fan Jianxin and Zhang Qin of China, Park Kyung AE of South Korea and Li Tong Suk of North Korea moved into the

semifinals, after winning their quarter-final matches.

In the quarter-finals, Fan Jianxin beat Tomoko Shimunaga of Japan 21-19, 16-21, 21-18 and 21-14, Zhang Qin defeated An Hi Suk of North Korea 21-17, 21-16, 19-21 and 21-17, Park Kyung AE beat Linli Zu of Chinese Taipei 12-21, 21-13, 21-19 and 21-10 and Li Tong Suk defeated Park Hae Jung of South Korea 21-23, 21-18, 21-09 and 21-17.

Park will play Fan in the first semifinal while Li will take on Zhang in the other semifinal.

Malhotra's ton sinks Kalabagan

Sports Reporter

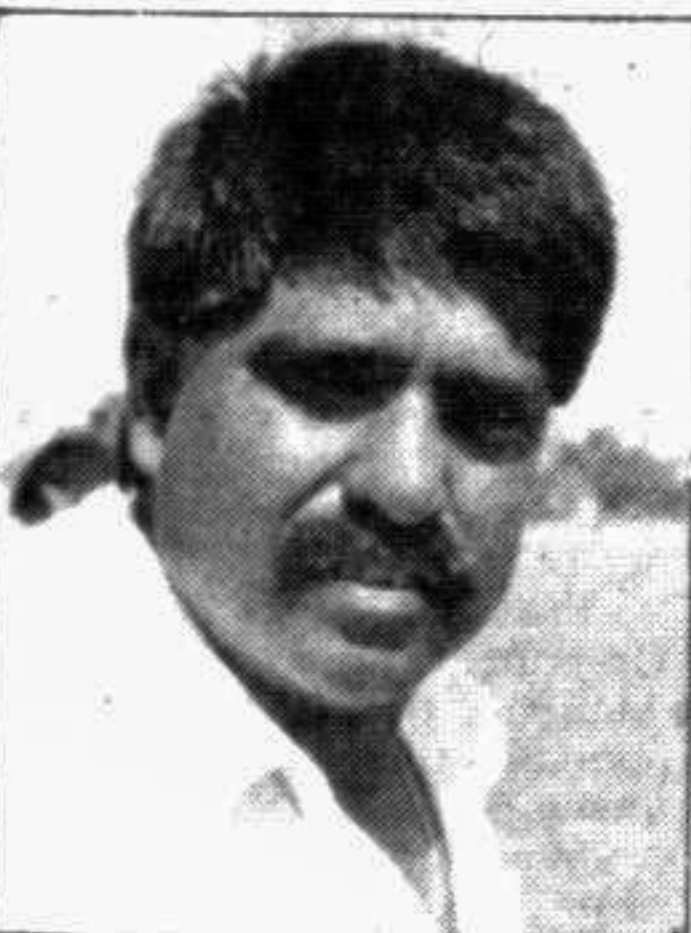
Ashoke Malhotra, Gulshan Youth's ex-Indian Test batsman, slammed a swashbuckling 141 not out to help his team to an exciting four-wicket victory with ten balls of the match remaining against Kalabagan Krira Chakra in the Navana Premier Division cricket league encounter yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Gulshan Youth, chasing Kalabagan's 286 for seven Wednesday, reached 287 runs for the loss of six wicket in 73.2 of their stipulated 75 overs.

Following this defeat Kalabagan now face a serious threat of relegation to the Milnars First Division league next season. They are now precariously placed with just two points from six matches. Their remaining three games are against Bangladesh Biman, GMCC and Surja Tarun, all formidable opponents.

Gulshan Youth, on the other hand, yesterday earned their sixth point from six matches.

Gulshan, resuming their innings at the overnight total of 21 for the loss of one wicket yesterday morning, started disastrously, losing four wick-



ASHOK MALHOTRA 141

ets with just 84 runs on the board.

Ashoke Malhotra, getting good support from Rome, added 99 valuable runs for the fifth wicket.

Rome scored 42. Shabbir also added 61 runs with Malhotra for the sixth wicket, Shabbir making 24.

Earlier Saiful, 30, Tanvir, 8 Tito, 3, and Arun Lal managed only five runs nineteen not out added an invaluable 45 runs for the unfinished seventh wicket

partnership with Malhotra.

Malhotra went on to remain unbeaten with an unblemished 141, his runs coming off only 162 balls. His knock was studied with nine glorious boundaries. Malhotra's century was the tenth in the league. Jahangir and Lipu two each, Selim Shahed, Omar Khaled Rumi, Duminda and Sanjeeva and Minhajul Abedin Nannoo are other centuries.

An interesting thing to note is that seven of the ten Navana league centuries so far have been scored by the local batsmen while only three foreign players - Duminda, Sanjeeva and Malhotra.

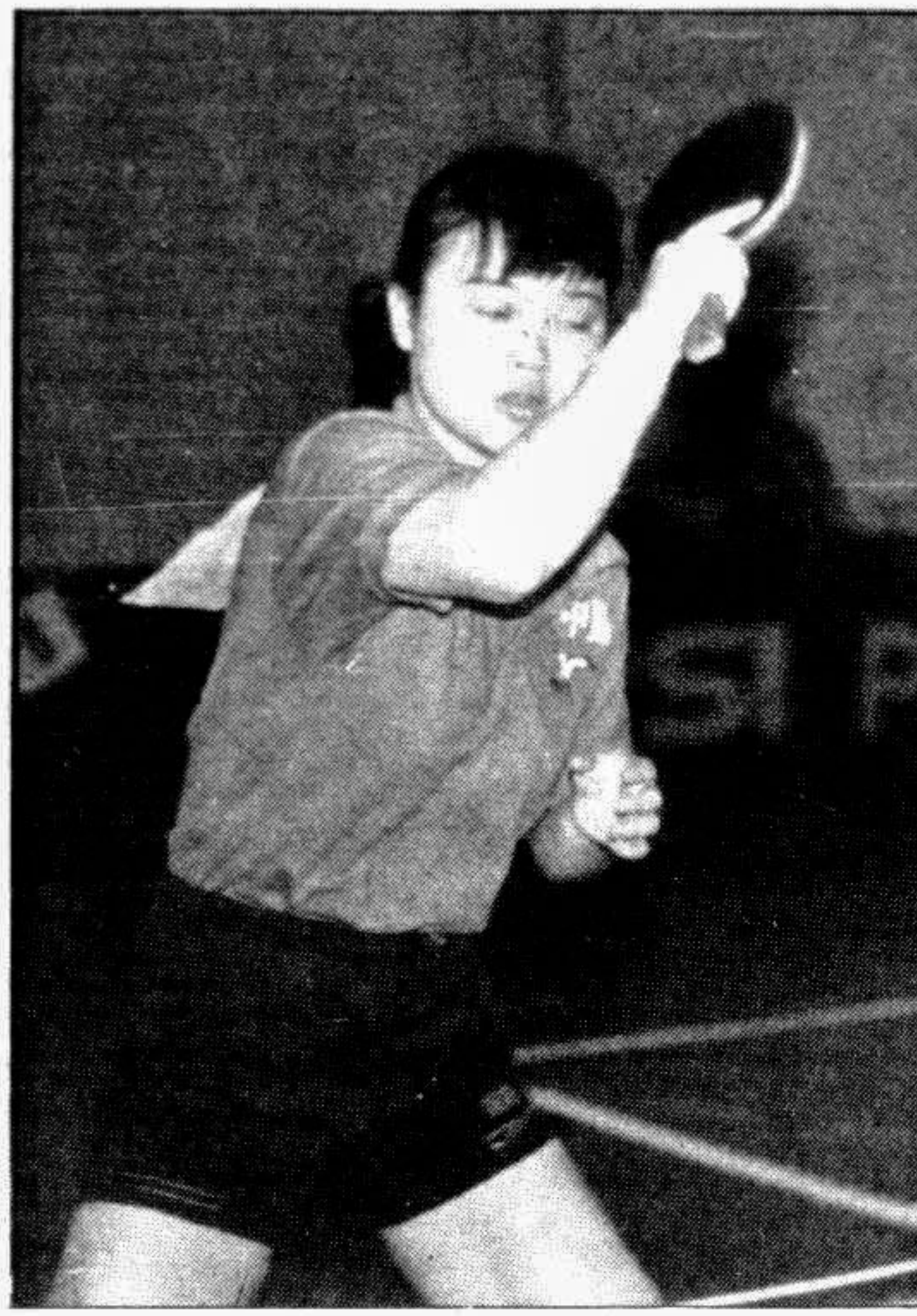
Samir Rahman Sami claimed three Gulshan wickets, for 61 runs while Pappu and Monir took one wicket each for Kalabagan.

Earlier, on Wednesday Kalabagan scored 286 for six wickets in 75 overs. Bablu 71, Mamun 41, Rumi 39 not out, Ishtiaq 31 not out and Tamim with 21 were the leading Kalabagan batsmen.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Lalmatia vs Surja Tarun (N. Stadium)

GMCC vs Rupali Bank (DCS)



Zhang Qin of China during her quarterfinal win in the women's singles against An Hi-Suk of North Korea on the second day of the eighth Pepsi Asian Cup tournament at the BKSP gymnasium yesterday. — Star photo

Marseille hold AC Milan

MILAN, Italy, Mar 7: Olympique Marseille went agonisingly close to pulling off a sensational win over European champions AC Milan here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Instead, after holding Milan 1-1 in an absorbing match, they have every chance of qualifying for the European Cup semi-finals in the return match in their own Velodrome stadium in a fortnight.

A dreadful blunder by Brazilian sweeper Carlos Mozer and fellow defender Bernard Casani led in Dutch star Ruud Gullit after 14 minutes.

But Jean-Pierre Papin equalised on 27 minutes and Marseille's Ghanaian forward Abedi Pele hit the post in the second half.

Mozer tried to pass back to goalkeeper Pascal Olmeta but the ball hit Casani and Gullit pounced to scoop a left-footed shot past Olmeta.

The French, who had started so well, picked themselves up and Papin scored the first goal in Milan in the European Cup for almost two years.

The last man to score here was Dragan Stojkovic for Red Star Belgrade in October, 1988, and the Yugoslav was sitting on the Marseille subs' bench last night.

Pele, a constant thorn in the Milan side, burst through the middle and fed English winger Chris Waddle on the edge of the penalty area.

Waddle threaded a perfect pass through the Milan cover for the unmarked Papin to run in and lash home a savage shot.

Barcelona in Cup Winners' Cup semis

KIEV, Soviet Union, Mar 7: Spanish league leaders Barcelona as good as clinched their place in the European Cup Winners' Cup semi-finals by beating Dynamo Kiev 3-2 here Wednesday.

Barcelona, who led 2-1 at half-time through goals from Bakero and Ortega, could even lose 1-0 at home in a fortnight and still qualify of the away goals rule.

Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov shot home a 65th minute penalty to complete a magnificent performance by a side whose Dutch coach John Cruyff is in hospital recovering from a heart operation.

Zaets and Salenko, from an 82nd minute penalty, scored for Kiev.

Bangladesh to play in pre-Olympics

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will take part in the qualifying round of the Pre-Olympic soccer beginning from May 18 at the Seoul City, South Korea.

Bangladesh will be playing against South Korea, Thailand, Philippines and Malaysia.

All the first round matches will be held in South Korea while the second round matches will start from June 1 in Malaysia.

Bangladesh will play against Thailand on May 18, South Korea on May 20, Malaysia on May 22 and Philippines on May 24.

In the second round, Bangladesh will meet Thailand on June 1, South Korea on June 3, Philippines on June 5, and Malaysia on June 7.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Football Federation have already started their preparation by announcing new coaching and selection committee.

Alamgir Farouq Chowdhury will be the president of the committee with Zakaria Pintoo as the secretary. They other member of the committee are Enayet, Nabi Chowdhury, Nazrul, Nawshar, Helal, Amal, Mohsin, Sadeq (NSC representative), BFF's General Secretary Haroon.

The committee will try to select players from the coming Independence Day football tournament organised by BFF.

School sports
The annual sports of the Morning Sun a pre-cadet and high school will be held today, 8 March, starting at 8:30 a.m. beside the Banani Police Station, says a press release.

Mizanur Rahman Mizan, Editor, Dainik Khabar will attend as chief guest, and distribute the prizes among the winners. Mostafa Golam Qudus, Chairman, Rupali Insurance Co. Ltd. will be a special guest.

Richards overtakes Sobers as Test ends in a draw



KINGSTON, Mar 7: Viv Richards passed the Test run aggregate set by Gary Sobers when he reached

32 in the second West Indies innings on a fraught final day in the first Test against Australia here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The West Indies captain had earlier in the day warned the umpires that someone might be killed if play continued on the pitch that had a wet patch following heavy rain on Monday night.

But he took advantage of the state of the ruined game to score easy runs.

The pitch gave no trouble as the match ended in a draw and Richie Richardson completed his 11th Test century and his sixth against Australia.

Carl Hooper was out for 31 after putting on 82 with Richardson and then Richardson (104) and Richards (52) added 118.

Richards played a series of memorable offside strokes and hit two sixes but the two that took him beyond Sobers and made him the highest run-scorer among West Indian Test batsmen came from a misfield by Craig McDermott at mid-on.

Only the Australian captain Allan Border, who passed 9,000 runs in this Test and was the first to congratulate Richards on beating the Sobers aggregate of 8,032, and the Indian opening batsman Sunil Gavaskar have scored more runs in Tests.

The major talking point of the day remained the pitch. The cover which protected it on Monday during heavy rain leaked and a patch on a fast bowler's length mark did not dry until lunch time. When the umpires told Richards that play must resume he was clearly angry at the decision.

"I don't want to come out here and find the ball flying round my nose,"

he commented before striding off the pitch.

"Do you want someone to die out here?" he asked.

Questions have already been raised about the preparations for rain at the ground after delays in the Indian Test in 1989 and against England a year ago.

The local daily Gleaner called the delay "a disgrace" and accused ground staff and administrators of being "incompetent".

AP adds: Wet grounds, which postponed play on Tuesday, further delayed the restart of the final day when

laid on the field and made the field unplayable.

Moseley recalled

Meanwhile, Ezra Moseley, a 32-year-old Barbadian fast bowler, has been recalled to a West Indies squad of 14 for the next three one-day international matches against Australia after missing the opening Test and one-day through a back strain.

He is among six pacers in the squad for the matches at Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad, March 9 and 10, and at Kensington Oval, Barbados, March 13.

Patrick Patterson also joins the one-day fold after his impressive five-wicket haul in the first Test.

Australia won the first match at Sabina Park, Jamaica last week by 35 runs, West Indies' first home defeat since 1986.

Scoreboard

Scores at the close of play on the fifth and final day of the first Test between West Indies and Australia here Wednesday:

West Indies: First Innings 264 (A.L. Logie 77/no; PLJ Dugon 59; McDermott 5 - 80; Hughes 4-67)

Australia: First Innings 371 (D.C. Boon 109/no; G.R. Marsh 69; M. Taylor 58; Patterson 5-83)

West Indies: Second Innings (overnight 187-2) Greenidge c Healy b McDermott 35

Haynes c Healy b McDermott 84

Richardson not out 104

Hooper b McDermott 31

Richards not out 52

Extras (b15, lb 6, w1, nb 6) 28

Total (3 wks) 334

Fall of wickets: 1-118; 2-134; 3-216

BOWLING: O M R W

McDermott 24 10 48 3,

Whitney 17 3 55 0,

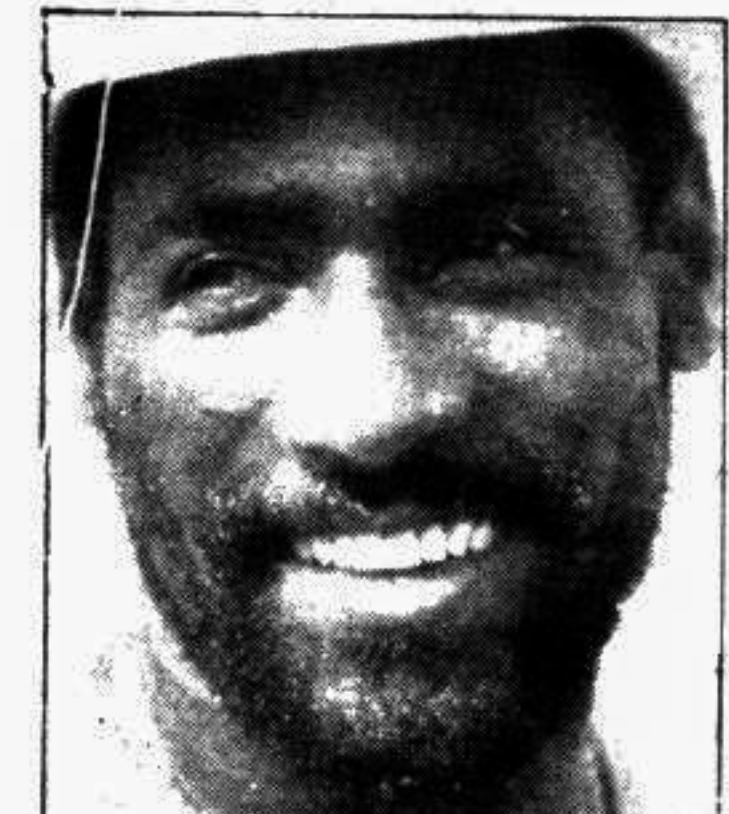
Hughes 22 5 79 0,

Matthews 25 2 90 0,

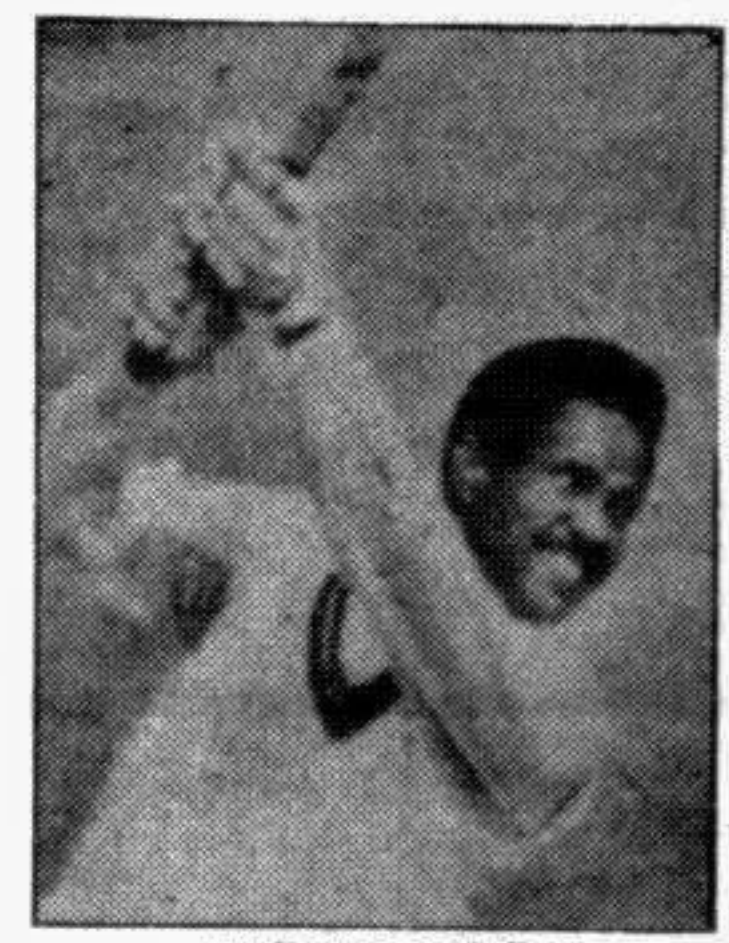
Waugh 13 6 20 0,

Border 10 3 21 0.

Match drawn.



VIV RICHARDS



GARY SOBERS

umpires ruled the field had not sufficiently dried.

Umpires Steve Bucknor and David Archer ruled that the middle of the wicket near the northern end was still too wet to resume play.

Rain on Monday, the rest day, leaked through a tarpolin

Diane Dixon desperate to get her due

NEW YORK, Mar 7: Diane Dixon has dominated the 400 metres on the indoor track in the United States for the past decade, yet she feels she needs a major championship victory to win her true international recognition, reports Reuter.

"I'm going to finally get my due," the 26-year-old American says with confidence as she looks ahead to the World Indoor Championships in Seville, Spain, which begin on Friday.

"People will know who I am soon enough."

Last month, Dixon won her 10th U.S. national indoor title, a record for any athletics discipline. She was a member of the gold-winning team at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, running in the early rounds of the 4x400 metres relay. She ran in the relay final four years after in Seoul and took home a silver.

Dixon was second in the 400 metres to Helga Arendt of the Soviet Union at the 1989 World Indoors Championships in Budapest and won her second overall women's title for cumulative results during this season's North American Indoor Grand Prix circuit.

But the absence of a major international title still haunts her.

She went undefeated in five indoor 400-metre races this season. But even in pursuit of her 10th title, she felt overshadowed by indoor sensation Noureddine Morceli of Algeria, who ran blistering times in the mile before breaking the indoor 1,500 metres mark last week in Seville.

"The mile isn't the only event at a track meet," Dixon says. "But sometimes it seems the other athletes have to do unusual things to get noticed."

Dixon has always tried hard to be noticed. The struggle for recognition began when she talked her way into the Atoms Track club in Brooklyn 14 years ago as a 12 year old.

Fred Thompson, the club's coach, told Dixon he had no room for her, but she kept coming back. Finally, she hopped on the track and started running anyway, befriending whoever would listen to her.

"Here was a kid who didn't understand no," Thompson said.

Dixon, who says she would like to pursue either a modelling or acting career, is used to calling her own shots. She dated former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson

briefly during his title reign before losing interest.

"Mike was okay," Dixon says, "but he was a little too pushy for my taste."

She is far from bashful herself. She pushed her way into a public relations job with U.S. Olympic Committee vice-

president George Steinbrenner, the controversial owner of the New York Yankees, by introducing herself to him at a USOC function two years ago.

"I told him we couldn't get enough money to train, so he told me to come worked for his baseball team. He gave me flexible hours, good compensation. He was very understanding."

Dixon can be full of surprises. Before the 1990 indoor nationals, she took her pet snake to her hotel room and considered taking it along during a post-race victory lap.

"That was going to be my ninth title, and I wanted people to remember it," she said. "But I was talked out of it."

Dixon got noticed anyway. She was introduced at a recent track writers' luncheon as "the woman with 10 indoor title and 10 hairstyles." But she says she is not emulating compatriot Florence Griffith-Joyner, the fashionable, triple gold medalist at the Seoul Olympics.

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Victoria put into bat, scored 146 runs in 34 overs and in reply Ajax were bowled out for 99 runs in 31 overs.

Azad Boys Club kept their championship hope alive with a massive 137 runs victory over Rayer Bazar at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

"We're different people, who do different things," Dixon says. "People see her as the original, but she also won some gold."

That, for now, is what separates Dixon from the star, role she would like to play.

Her best chance may be on Seville's banked track, where the indoor configurations could favour runners who are shorter, stockier and not averse to bumping.

Dixon fits the bill at 1.65m and 57kg and will not have to run against Cuba's Ana Quirot, the best outdoor 400 metres runner who has decided not to take part.

"It will take a 51-something (seconds) to win in Spain," forecasts Dixon, whose 51.77 is her indoor best. "Then I want to finally have a great outdoor season — and start winning some medals."

"I want to be known as a good runner, not just a stylish runner," Dixon said.

"On second thought, I want to be known as both."

Niaz plays 40 at a time today

Grandmaster Niaz Morshed will play 40 players simultaneously in a chess competition today, Friday, at 3 p.m. at the DUCSU cafeteria here, reports BBS.

The competition is being organised by the Mottihel Rotaract Club in association with the DUCSU to raise funds for a girl who needs open-heart surgery.

Chairman of the National Sports Council Major General Mahbubur Rahman will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Div II results
Sports reporter

Four matches were decided in the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league yesterday at the different venues of the city grounds.

Wari KC posted a narrow 12 runs victory over Rainbow SC at the Mahakhali T and T ground.

Wari taking the strike were bowled out for 119 runs in 29.1 overs. Rainbow in reply were shot out for 107 runs in 33.1 overs. Victoria scored an easy 47 runs victory over Ajax SC at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

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Lewis' absence leaves Johnson clear

SEVILLE, Spain, Mar 7: Carl Lewis may have given Ben Johnson his best chance of redeeming himself in the world indoor athletics championships here on Friday, reports AFP.

Leroy Burrell, who runs for the same club as Carl Lewis, will not be here on Friday when the Canadian, back after a two year ban following his Olympic drug scandal, tries to win the 60 metres gold medal.

Burrell has run a world record 6.48 sec this year but followed Lewis' example and missed the United States Championships. That meant he could not be selected for Seville.

Johnson, whose fastest this year is a hand-timed 6.3 sec, which converts to an electronic 6.5, has won three and lost three since making his comeback. His old world records, set while on steroids,

is 6.41.

His biggest challenge could come from Cuban pair Andrees Simon, who lost a photo-finish to Johnson in Osaka, Japan, four weeks ago and Joel Isasi.

BJMC top nat'l junior boxing

Sports Reporter

The four-day tenth national junior boxing championships concluded at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium yesterday with Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) punchers making an almost clean sweep of the medals on offer. Out of the nine gold medals at stake, BJMC boxers bagged eight with Muktiuddha Sangshad finishing a very poor second with just one gold.

These two shut out the other nine teams from the gold hunt.

Forty-eight boxers representing 11 teams took part in nine weight divisions of the meet which began March 4 under the auspices of the Bangladesh Amateur Boxing Federation.

BJMC finished with eight gold and one silver medal, followed by Muktiuddha Sangshad's one gold and three silvers. Kushtia DSA finished third with two silvers and four bronzes followed by Satkhira with one silver and three bronzes.

Khulna and Rajshahi picked up a silver each while Jessore got three bronzes. Dhaka Metropolitan two, Bogra and Rangpur one bronze each. Only Bagerhat DSA failed to earn a medal.

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