

Windies wrest back control

BRIDGETOWN, Apr 21: Desmond Haynes and Gordon Greenidge compiled their 16th century opening stand in Tests as West Indies took command of the fourth cricket Test against Australia on Saturday, reports Reuter.

They put on 129, Greenidge hammering a fine unbeaten 85, as West Indies reached 138 for one — lead of 153 — at the close of the second day.

Earlier, West Indies' four-pronged pace attack had ripped out Australia's last seven wickets for 39 runs after the touring team had resumed at 56 for two.

West Indies, 1-0 up in the five-Test series, bowled out Australia for 134-15 runs fewer than their own meagre first innings total.

Haynes and Greenidge were the first two batsmen to score more than 32 runs in this Test and, with three days to play, put West Indies in line for a winning 2-0 lead in the series.

Malcolm Marshall was with Greenidge at the close, having come in as nightwatchman and made five runs.

Australia's batting collapsed in the face of impressive seam bowling, uncertain bounce and a questionable lbw decision against Dean Jones.

But there was no disputing the West Indies dominance on a day which delighted the capacity crowd.

Mark Taylor and Allan Border looked as if they would continue their good work of the previous evening when they resumed the Australian innings.



Desmond Haynes and Gordon Greenidge put on an opening stand of 129

Taylor produced a fluent cover drive off Patrick Patterson for two and looked in charge until he was deceived by a ball from Curtly Ambrose which kept low and trapped him leg before for 26.

That brought in Dean Jones who immediately encountered a barrage of bouncers from Ambrose.

But Jones remained cool and was beginning to look as if he would play the sort of commanding innings which has eluded him for a year when he fell victim to a questionable leg before decision padding up to Marshall.

Courtney Walsh wrapped up the tail to pick up four for 14 leaving Mark Waugh not out 20.

Marshall (3-60), Ambrose (2-36) and Patterson (1-22) all bowled well, with Patterson restricted by a hamstring strain.

Then the game changed, batting was made to look easy and Greenidge and Haynes prospered in the sunshine as Australia — with Border off the field nursing an injury to his left thumb — saw their dreams fade.

The two Barbadians, probably opening together for the last time in a Bridgetown international, reached 100 in the 31st over and went on to 129 before Haynes was caught behind off Mark Waugh.

Greenidge, who survived a very confident lbw appeal by Merv Hughes when on 42, reached 50 in 96 balls and at

the close was 15 shot of his 19th Test century and his first since making 149 against England in Antigua a year ago.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the fourth cricket Test between West Indies and Australia on Saturday:

West Indies: first innings 149 (C. McDermott four for 49, M. Hughes four for 44).

Australia: first innings (overnight 56-2). M. Taylor lbw b Ambrose 26; Marsh c Logie b Ambrose 12; Boon c Hooper b Marshall 0; Border b Marshall 29; Jones lbw b Marshall 22; M. Waugh not out 20; S. Waugh c Dujon b Walsh 2; Healy c Dujon b Walsh 2; Hughes c Logie b Walsh 3; McDermott b Walsh 2; Reid b Walsh 0; Extras (fb-2 nb-14) 16; Total 134

Fall of wickets: 1-24; 2-27; 3-59; 4-95; 5-97; 6-100; 7-106; 8-121; 9-127.

Bowling: O M R W
Ambrose 16 5 36 2
Patterson 13 6 22 1
Marshall 16 1 60 3
Walsh 5 1 14 4

West Indies: Second innings Greenidge not out 85; Haynes c Healy b M. Waugh 40; Marshall not out 5; Extras (fb-4 nb-4) 8; Total (for one wicket) 138

Fall of wicket: 1-129

Bowling (to date): O M R W
McDermott 8 3 23 0
Reid 12 1 42 0
Hughes 10 0 38 0
S. Waugh 13 4 21 0
M. Waugh 5 2 10 1

Mota, Tolstikov win convincingly

LONDON, Apr 21: Rosa Mota and Yakov Tolstikov both broke away at the halfway stage to win the women's and men's sections of the 11th London Marathon and World Cup on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Portuguese Mota, the Olympic, World and European champion, made no contest of the women's race, finishing in an unofficial two hours 26 minutes 14 seconds.

Soviet Tolstikov, who has never won a major marathon before, was an equality convincing winner of the men's race in an unofficial personal best of 2:09:17, the third fastest time ever in the London race.

Olympic champion Gelindo Bordin, the pre-race favourite, was in trouble after 21 kms of the 42.195-km race and dropped back steadily in the field.

The race started in chilly conditions and a head wind over the closing stages made conditions difficult for the field of 24,000.

"It was very hard because it was so windy," Mota said. "I (the wind) was very strong and I ran only to win the race."

"I feel good. I tried to run the second part of the race faster than the first."

American veteran Francie Larrieu Smith was second in 2:27:35 and Soviet Valentina Yegorova, second to Mota in last year's European championships, was third in 2:28:18.

Portuguese Manuel Matias edged Pole Jan Huruk to finish second in the men's race. Both men clocked 2:10:21.

Mota was quickly into the lead in the women's race

which began 30 minutes before the men got underway. She pushed the race in the early stages, followed closely by Yegorova and German Karin Dorre.

After the field had crossed Tower Bridge near the halfway stage, Mota poured on the pace, steadily increasing the gap.

Larrieu Smith, 38 who competed over 1,500 metres at the 1972 Munich Olympics, set out in pursuit but the Portuguese, who will not run a marathon again until August's world championships in Tokyo, was not to be caught.

Tolstikov, a physical education teacher in Siberia, accelerated suddenly at the halfway stage and kept up the pace over the second half to finish a comfortable winner.

His previous best international performance was a third place in the 1986 Moscow Goodwill Games.

Alfredo Shahanga, one of two Tanzanian brothers in the race, led the following pack but dropped back, leaving Matias to take up the chase.



ROSA MOTA

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Lewis & Co miss world mark

WALNUT, California, Apr 21: Six-time Olympic champion Carl Lewis took his Santa Monica Track Club teammates to an easy win in the 4x100 metres relay on Saturday, but fell half a second shy of recapturing the world record, reports Reuter.

Lewis and teammates Leroy Burrell, Mike Marsh and Mark Witherspoon clocked 38.33 seconds — more than a second ahead of the second placed University of Tennessee team at the Mount San Antonio College relays on Saturday.

Four-time Olympic long jumper Larry Myricks placed third at the meet in his first major competition after a drug suspension of more than a year.

In the women's races, a team of Soviet runners were outplacced by the Americans, winning only one of six events

and placing third in two. Burrell, the world's top sprinter, took the baton from Marsh and ran a blazing second leg, but was unsteady on his handoff to Lewis.

Witherspoon ran the anchor leg. "I got down to the zone and I felt just a little bit off balance," Burrell said. "I threw Carl off a little bit."

"If the handoff was right we would have been right at 38 flat," Lewis said, adding the team is working on a new handoff.

Lewis, the world record holder in the 100 metres, was part of a team that set a 37.83 second world record in 1984 that was beaten last year by a French team which ran 37.79 seconds.

Lewis was confident the team could shatter the record later this year. "We feel we can break 37 before the year is out," Lewis said.



CARL LEWIS

Myricks, who attributed his suspension to over-the-counter flu medication, said he needs

to work on his timing and technique.

"My timing is off," said Myricks, who jumped 8.30 metres (27 feet 2-3/4 inches). American Mike Powell won the event at 8.37 metres (27 5-1/2).

"I've got to get my timing off the board, in the air ... Myricks said, adding he was confident of making it to the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

In the women's 400 metres hurdles, Soviet Vera Ordina led the entire race to win at 56.16 seconds, ahead of compatriot Tatiana Ledovskaya.

American Tasha Downing won the women's 400 metres at 52.78 seconds, well ahead of third-placed Soviet Olga Bryzgina at 53.32.

In the women's 800 metres American Julie Jenkins won with a time of two minutes 1.56 seconds, ahead of compatriot Alisa Hill and third-placed Soviet Lyudov Surnia.

Holyfield's homage to Foreman

ATLANTIC CITY, Apr 21: World heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield paid homage to George Foreman on Saturday, the day after the two fought 12 tough rounds in a fight many thought would be a joke, reports Reuter.

Holyfield, who retained his undisputed title on a unanimous points decision, said the 42-year-old Foreman, bidding to become the oldest heavyweight champion ever, "fought like a 24 year old" on Friday night.

"He didn't lose anything. He showed a lot of heart with his punches and his pride showed through," Holyfield said in a news conference on Saturday.

Holyfield's promoter, Dan Duva, said "After a fight like this his man would not fight until late September or early October. Let him rest."

The biggest fight looming for Holyfield would be against former champion Mike Tyson. But animosity and legal issues between Holyfield's promoter and Don King, Tyson's promoter, make a date for that eventuality very vague.

Bob Arum, Foreman's promoter, said he did not know if Foreman would retire, but hinted that he would advise him to hang up his gloves after accomplishing what few thought he could — last 12 rounds and be a dangerous opponent for all of them.

"If he's as intelligent as I truly believe he is," Arum said, "he would quit at the top. If he had won the title when he'd have to fight again, but now he can quit on top."

The only really big fight for Foreman would be against former champion Mike Tyson. Foreman can retire because nothing bad is gonna happen to him now," Arum said, meaning that if he did risk losing another fight most people would remember the 42-year-old's courageous effort against Holyfield and not that the lost.

Arum said that Foreman, who flew home to Marshall, Texas, outside of Houston, early Saturday morning, told him that his jaw never felt as sore after any of his 72 professional fights as it did on Saturday.

Foreman is now 24-1 since his return to the ring in 1987, after a 10-year retirement, and 69-3 overall.

"There were no losers," said the 28-year-old Holyfield on Saturday. "He got the respect for doing what he did and I got the respect for defending my title for the first time against a real tough guy."

Then Holyfield, now 26-0, borrowed one of Foreman's favourite themes in the promotion for the fight which earned the champion 20 million dollars and the challenger 12.5 million.

"He also showed being 42 is not a death sentence," Holyfield said.

"George was determined to win the fight. I hit him with everything I had. He withstood it," Holyfield said.

The 257-pound (116.5 kg) Foreman never "hit me flush on the chin," Holyfield said with a thankful smile.

Holyfield, who knocked out a less than courageous James "buster" Douglas in the third round last October to win the undisputed title, was asked if he had been frustrated by not being able to knock out Foreman.

"When you get two guys in there who are determined not to fall (that's what happens)," Holyfield said. "There really were no losers in this fight. We both won."

Holyfield, who at 208 pounds (94.3 kg) gave away 49 pounds (22.2 kg) to Foreman, said on Friday night he did not want to fight Foreman again. But Duva said later that he might fight him again.

But on Saturday Holyfield backed off his remark, saying he meant that he was not looking forward to fighting Foreman again.

"If he doesn't continue to box, he shouldn't leave boxing because he'd be a great representative for boxing," said Lou Duva, Dan's father and Holyfield's trainer.

"Anybody who saw this event had to leave impressed that this was a positive event for boxing. When was the last time we saw people leave smiling and talking about it like this one," Duva said.

"Evander followed the battle plan to a T, but nobody expected George to be in there as long as he was and throw as many punches," Dan Duva said.

Holyfield said that just before they began the final round, Foreman leaned over and said, "Thank you for the opportunity to win the title."

Then the two warriors whacked away at each other for the final three minutes.

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Seles, Fernandez in final

HOUSTON, Apr 21: World number one Monica Seles and second-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez cruised to semifinal victories on Saturday and will battle for the title in the final of the 350,000-dollar Virginia Slims of Houston, reports Reuter.

The top-seeded Seles of Yugoslavia, looking for her third singles title of the year, used her punishing two-fisted groundstroking game to take the first 10 games en route to a 6-0, 6-2 victory in 71 minutes over sixth-seeded Sandra Cecchini of Italy in one semifinal match.

Earlier, fifth-ranked Fernandez made unseeded Linda Harvey-Wild's first semifinal appearance an unsuccessful one, downing the fellow American 6-0, 6-3 in the other clay court contest.

"I think I'm playing fine, not great," said Seles, 17, who despite being bothered by shin splints lately, lost just five games in racing through three opponents this week.

Seles holds a 4-1 career mark against Fernandez, which includes four consecutive wins with a pair of semifinal victories coming this year at the Australian Open and the Lipton International Players' championship.

"We know each other's game so well," Seles said. "She's a great groundstricker and there are going to be a lot of long rallies. I'm going to have to play a great match tomorrow. But that's what a final is, two of the best."

Cecchini, ranked 23rd, shook her head over her 13rd loss. "I played well but I missed too much," said Cecchini, who committed 32 unforced errors to Seles' 19 as she remained



MONICA SELES

winless in two career tries against her. Fernandez, who also teamed with Patty Fendick to gain the final of the doubles, assessed her semifinal victory:

"I played aggressively and returned serve well in the opening set," she said.

"When I was down 3-1, I started to play more aggressively and put more pressure on her. After all, she had nothing to lose," she added.

Fernandez, 19, used a solid baseline attack to breeze through Harvey-Wild, who was making her first semifinal appearance in a major tournament.

Harvey-Wild, 20, ranked 93rd, built a 3-1 advantage in the second set before Fernandez regrouped to run off the final five games to complete the 63-minute straight set victory.

Fernandez, who has won two career titles but advance to her first final of the year, said she is looking forward to today's clash with Seles worth 70,000 dollars to the winner and 31,500 dollars to the runner-up.

MSC booters off to Riyadh

A 24-member Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club squad leaves Dhaka today for Saudi Arabia to participate in the Asian Cup Winners' Cup competition in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

Mohammedans will be playing against Saudi club champions Al-Helal Club. Both the first and second-leg matches will be held in Saudi Arabia.

The matches were earlier scheduled to be held in late January but had to be postponed due to the Gulf war.

Mohammedans will play their first match on Wednesday, April 24 while the other game will be on April 28.

The local team, headed by club president Al-haj Abdul Momen consists of seven officials and 17 players.

National snooker from April 27

The eighth national snooker championship organised by the Bangladesh Billiards and Snooker Federation will begin from April 27 at the Dhaka Club.

55 players are expected to take part in the tourney. Five tables will be used for the tournament. The championship will conclude on May 12.

Nirman cricket

Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Apr 21: The inaugural match of Nirman schools cricket competition did not take place as both contestants Sunamganj Government Jubilee High School and Fenchuganj Fertilizer Factory failed to show up.

Vega Sports take BABF to court

Sports Reporter
The crucial Partex First Division basketball league championship deciding match between Vega Sports and Angels Club, scheduled to be held today has been postponed until further notice, according to a press release issued yesterday by the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation (BABF).

Vega Sports Club filed a case against the BABF in the 4th Sub-Judge's court, Dhaka on last Saturday challenging the right of the BABF to amend its by-laws in the midst of the super league, which Vega says had been done expressly to favour a certain club playing in the league and which, therefore, was mala fide. The disputed BABF new by-law does not allow Vega Sports to field their West Bengal recruit Sanjay Doel, despite the fact that he has already played three matches for them.

Angels, with a clean slate, and Vega Club with only one defeat, however, have equal chances of winning the title. Should Vega beat Angels, they would be deemed the champions by virtue of a better points aggregate.

Int'l chess in city from Apr 24

Sports Reporter
The first United Insurance International Masters' chess championship, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation, begins on Wednesday, April 24 at the NSC chess room.

Fifteen players, including seven foreigners, are expected to take part in a round robin league.

Four Indian players — IM T.N. Parmeswar, IM N.K. Misra, V. Koshi and Vidhan Sanal and two Pakistanis, IM Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi and Amer Karim, have already confirmed their participation. One player from the Philippines is also expected to arrive before the start of the tournament.

Sixty-five thousand taka in prize money will be at stake.

The Khans in semis

LONDON, Apr 21: Jahangir Khan, bidding to win the British Open title for the 10th year in succession, reached the last four with a crushing 9-3, 9-0, 9-0 defeat of England captain Bryan Beeson in just 35 minutes on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Beeson, the number 14 seed, was appearing in the quarter-finals for the first time in his career. He looked completely overawed by the occasion, failing to register on the scoreboard after claiming three of the first seven points.

Jahangir has now won 54 consecutive matches at the British Open since lifting the title for the first time in 1982.

Compatriot Jansher Khan, the top seed, eased into the last four with a 9-3, 9-3, 6-9, 9-4 victory over Australian Rodney Eyles.

His semifinal opponent will be Australian Chris Dittmar, the world number three, who was beaten by Jansher in the World Open final in November.

While the top men were progressing to their allotted places in the last four, Susan Devoy's seven-year reign as women's champion was ended by 13th seeded Sue Wright of England.

The New Zealander looked certain to extend her unbeaten run when she took the first game in eight minutes and raced to a 6-0 lead in the second.

But Wright hit back to take that game and then recovered from another period of Devoy domination to record a 4-9, 10-9, 1-9, 9-3, 9-2 victory — one of the biggest upsets in the history of the women's game.

Barcelona stay ahead

MADRID, Apr 21: Spanish soccer league leaders Barcelona beat Seville 3-0 on Saturday after Seville goalkeeper Monchi Rodriguez was sent off in the first half for felling striker Aitor Beguiristain.

Reserve keeper Rodriguez, replacement for injured first choice Juan Uzaue, received his marching orders in the 36th minute with his team 1-0 down when he charged out of his area and downed Beguiristain with a rugby tackle.

With the club's third-choice goalkeeper unavailable through injury, Seville took off midfielder Ramon Vazquez and fielded 19-year-old Jaime Ferrer, the youth team keeper, as substitute.

Striker Juan Goikoetxea had put Barcelona ahead after just two minutes when he took a long pass from Danish international Michael Laudrup and sped through Seville's defence to score.

Chile's Ivan Zamorano hit a post for Seville 14 minutes later but the dismissal of goalkeeper Rodriguez undermined the morale of the Andalusian team.

Barcelona bombarded the Seville defence in the second half. Bulgarian striker Kristo Stochkov bounced a shot off the post before Guillermo Amor headed in the second goal in the 52nd minute.

Amor missed a second chance and Julio Salinas passed up two more before Miguel Soler made it 3-0 after 57 minutes.

Barcelona then relaxed to save energy for next Wednesday's Cup Winner's Cup semifinal second leg against Juventus Turin in Italy where they defend a 3-1 first-leg advantage.

Real Madrid, long out of the hunt in their ill-starred title defence, won 3-1 at lowly Real Betis to boost their hopes of a place in next season's UEFA Cup.

Emilio Butragueno netted the first goal after just four minutes and created an opening 16 minutes into the second half for defender Fernando Hierro to score the second.

Hierro added the third from a pass by Michel Gonzalez 12 minutes later. Pepe Mel scored a consolation goal for Betis with a penalty in the 89th minutes after he had been fouled by Hierro and Yugoslav international Predrag Spasic.

Diego's half a dozen

BUENOS AIRES, Apr 21: Diego Maradona, at home on suspension from soccer for testing positive for cocaine, scored six goals in a five-a-side pickup game against friends and led his team to a 9-4 victory, reports AP.

"He showed the enthusiasm of a beginner," the newspaper La Nacion reported Saturday of the game played Friday evening in suburban San Vicente.

The report was published the same day the Federal Appeals Commission, Italian soccer's highest tribunal, rejected an appeal by Maradona to have his 15-month suspension reduced. Maradona was suspended by the Italian League on April 6 for testing positive after a March 17 game between Bari and Napoli, Maradona's club team.

Maradona, 30, was captain of Napoli as well as the Argentine national team, which he led to the 1986 World Cup title and a second-place finish at the 1990 Cup.

No more appeals

Meanwhile, another reports from Buenos Aires says Maradona's business manager on Saturday said a second appeal of the 15-month suspension imposed on the 1986 World Cup's most valuable player would not be attempted.

Marcos Franchi spoke to the news agency Noticias Argentinas after Italian soccer's highest tribunal, the Federal Appeals Commission, earlier in the day rejected an appeal by the striker to reduce the ban, which will be enforced worldwide.