

Sport

Manjrekar stems Indian rot

BRISBANE, Australia, Dec 20: India's beleaguered top order gave another pathetic display on the first day of the four-day match against Queensland here Friday, reports AFP.

Electing to bat first on the GABBA wicket, the Indians caved in just as they had done during the 10-wicket defeat by Australia in the first Test here three weeks ago.

After losing the first four wickets for 161, the tourists ended the curtailed opening day's play at 255 for six, thanks mainly to an masterly century from Sanjay Manjrekar.

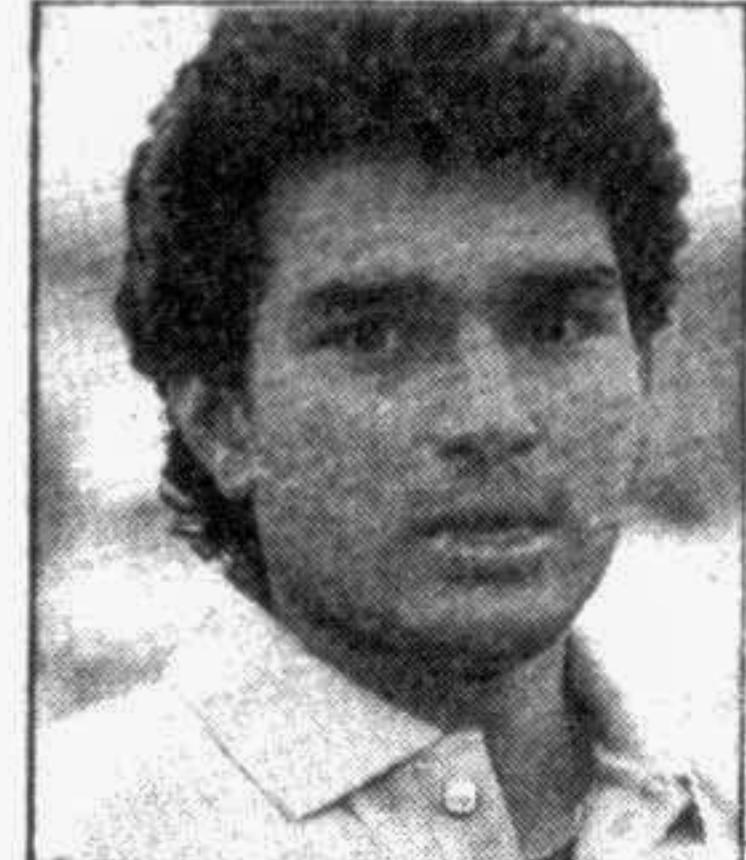
Manjrekar, who made 110, was the only Indian to take charge against a Queensland attack depleted by the absence of resting Test paceman Craig McDermott.

India were rescued from abject surrender by a defiant fifth wicket stand of 72 in 77 minutes between Manjrekar and left-handed Sourav Ganguly, who contributed 29.

Scott Prestwidge, a 21-year-old fast bowler, made up for McDermott's absence with a spirited display in his

maiden first class appearance. Working up a lively pace, Prestwidge removed both openers Ravi Shastri and Krishnamachari Srikkanth Cheaply.

He had Srikkanth (7) Slashing straight to Peter Taylor



SANJAY MANJREKAR

at gully and then had Shastri (35) edging to wicket-keeper Peter Anderson.

Veteran batsman Dilip Vengsarkar, struggling to retain his Test place, added 74 for the third wicket with Manjrekar before being caught behind off another rookie fast bowler Scott Williams for 27.

India's woes compounded

Marsh's injury minor

PERTH, Australia, Dec 20: Australian cricket vice-captain Geoff Marsh may recover from a neck injury in time to play in the second Test against India, starting in Melbourne on December 26, reports AFP.

Marsh, 32, was given the good news here Thursday by Western Australian orthopaedic surgeon Phil Hardecaste, who has established an international reputation for his achievements in sports medicine.

He performed the complex back surgery which gave Australian fast bowler Bruce Reid a new lease of life at the top level, and only last week he prescribed a new bowling action for West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop, plagued with back problems.

Marsh injured his neck in Sydney on Wednesday night when he was involved in a collision with team-mate Dean Jones while attempting to take a catch from a shot by Malcolm Marshall in a World Series one-day game against the West Indies.

Marsh, who won the man-of-the-match award for his innings of 82 in Australia's vice-

Test, was knocked unconscious in the incident.

Western Australian coach Daryl Foster, who accompanied Marsh when he saw Hardecaste here Thursday on his return to his home state, said further X-rays had shown there was a soft tissue injury at the base of Marsh's neck.

"Fortunately, there is no fracture or crack," he said.

"Hardecaste said that Marsh is definitely in contention for the second Test. Something which delighted Marsh, of course," he said.

Foster said Marsh had been told to wear a neck brace for the next three to four days, to take anti-inflammatory tablets and to apply ice to the injury.

"Whether he plays in Melbourne will depend greatly on how the injury responds in the next few days," Foster said.

"Given his usual powers of recovering from injuries, there must be every chance that he will be able to take his place."

Marsh, as well as being a key member of the Australian Test line-up, is a vital component in the team's hopes for retaining the World Cup one-day title, to be decided in Australia and New Zealand in February and March.

Windies cricket chiefs to tour South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 20: West Indian Cricket Board president Clyde Walcott and secretary Steve Camacho will visit South Africa next month. United Cricket Board of South Africa chief Ali Bacher said Thursday, reports AFP.

But UCBA's managing director dismissed a report here that the South African cricket team will play three matches in the West Indies next April, immediately after the World Cup in Australia, as "pure speculation".

He told AFP that while South Africa and the West Indies wished to "establish early contact," no date had been set for any tour.

The visit by Walcott and Camacho from January 14 to 23 was the first step towards exploring contacts, Bacher added.

The Johannesburg star, quoting a Jamaican source, said matches were scheduled for Jamaica, Barbados and either Guyana or Trinidad "almost immediately" after the

visit.

"We also believe their inclusion on this tour will be an inspiration to followers of cricket within their own communities," Bacher added.

He said that players could not be selected on merit in South Africa because equal opportunity did not exist.

"We have a moral obligation to redress the imbalances that have existed in our cricket for more than 100 years," Bacher said.

Favourites march on

JAKARTA, Dec 20: All fa-vourite individuals and teams won their round-robin matches as expected on the second day of the Cathay Pacific Asian Cup badminton tournament here Thursday, reports AFP.

In the men's singles, host player Bambang Suprianto, who beat China's ace shuttler Wu Wenka on Wednesday, lost a tough first set against Malaysia's Foo Kok Keong but recovered by easily winning the second and the decider.

Thailand's Sompot Kukasmik then lost the first set to win the two others against South Korea's Lee Kwan Jin.

China's Wan Zheng fought hard to subdue South Korea's Kim Hak Kyun in a rubber set while Indonesia's Joko Suprianto had an easy time beating Taiwan's Lee Mie Chow in a straight set.

In the women's singles, world champion Tan Juihong of China scored her second win in the cup by beating Japan's Hisako Mizut.

Tan's compatriot Ye Zhao-yang had to out to South Korea's Bang Soo Hyun after

giving her tough time.

The South Korean and Indonesian mixed double teams easily defeated their opponents, Japan and Hong Kong respectively, in straight sets.

The first night's two withdrawals, South Korea's Park Joo Bong, Kim Moon Soo in the men's doubles and Indonesia's lady shuttler Sarwendah, pulled out of the game Thursday when they did not show up to play on the second day.

Nor did the Korean team play, citing Park's leg injury, suffered in Kuala Lumpur, while Sarwendah was down with a cold.

The cup offers a total cash prize of 100,000 dollars.

Police athletics

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 20: The annual athletics meet of Brahmanbaria District Police was held at the local stadium recently, reports UNB.

Chittagong Range Divisional Inspector General of Police M A Khalique inaugurated the day-long meet and distributed prizes among the winners.

About 150 athletes took

part in 22 events.

In the women's singles, world champion Tan Juihong of China scored her second win in the cup by beating Japan's Hisako Mizut.

Tan's compatriot Ye Zhao-yang had to out to South Korea's Bang Soo Hyun after

Holyfield plans to fight in '92

NEW YORK, Dec 20: Undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield plans to fight three times in 1992, his promoters announced on Thursday, dispelling rumours of the undefeated fighter's imminent retirement, reports Reuter.

March, June and November are the most likely months that Holyfield will fight, Dan Duvu, the champion's promoter and president of main events productions said.

Possible 1992 opponents include former champions Mike Tyson, who is scheduled to stand trial on rape charges next month, and George Foreman, who lost a 12-round decision to Holyfield earlier this year.

Other potential 1992 opponents for Holyfield mentioned in a release by main events were Riddick Bowe, Olympic champion Ray Mercer and Briton Lennox Lewis.

"During the coming weeks we will meet with potential broadcaster, sites and opponents," said Duvu, who estimated that Holyfield will earn 50 million dollars in purses next year.

If all goes according to plan, Duvu said, Holyfield will have attained a record of 30-0 shortly after his 30th birthday.

Chess results

LONDON, Dec 20: Nigel Short, currently ranked the strongest player outside the crumbling Soviet Union, beat Michael Adams in the final of the first English Chess Championships after a seven-hour struggle, reports Reuter.

"Short will definitely long jump in Stockholm on February 5 and there is possibility he will compete in either Stuttgart or Karlsruhe," Joe Douglas said in a telephone interview from his Santa Monica office.

The Karlsruhe meeting is scheduled for January 31 and the Stuttgart competition is set for February 2. If Lewis competes in either, it will be over 60 metres, Douglas said.

The six-time Olympic champion also plans to run the 55 metres in New York on February 7.

Krabbe, Stich voted Germany's best

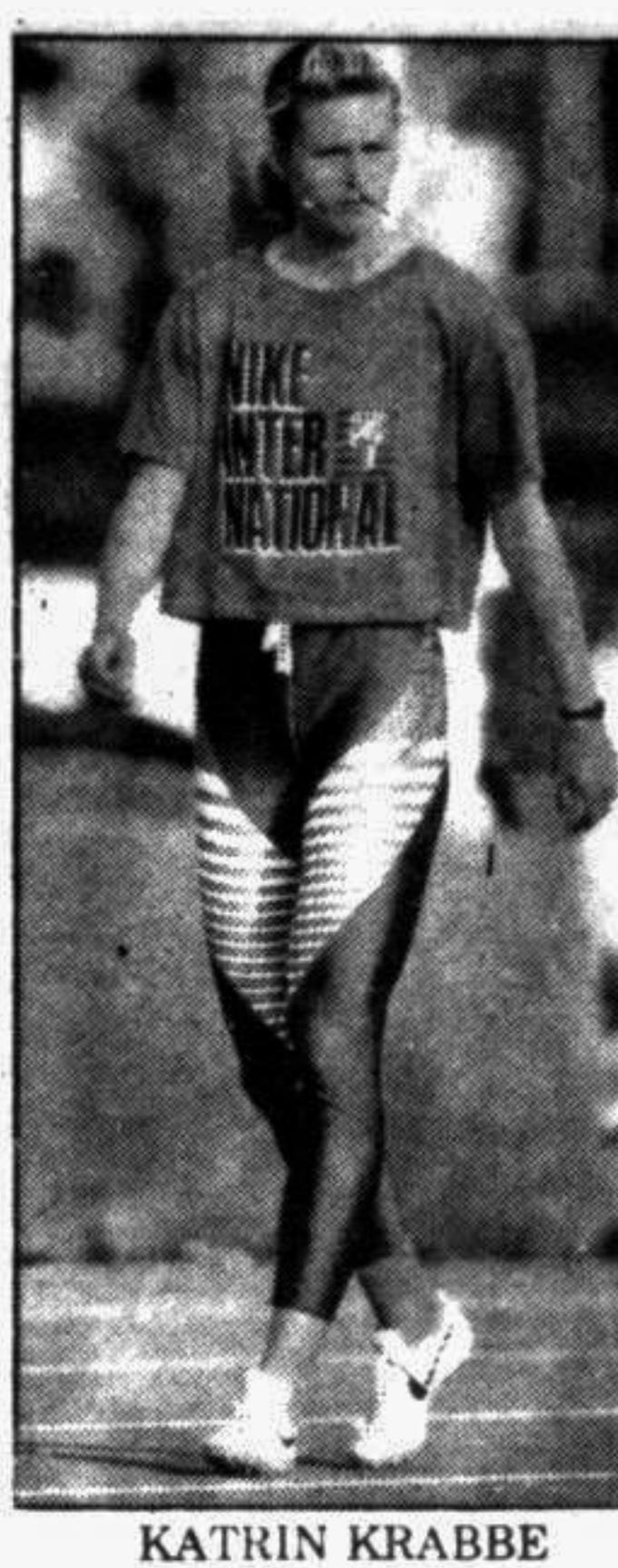
BADEN BADEN, Germany, Dec 20: Sprint queen Katrin Krabbe, Wimbledon king Michael Stich and reigning football champions FC Kaiserslautern have topped Germany's annual sports awards, reports Reuter.

Journalists voted for Krabbe, the 100m and 200m world champion, for the second year running in the women's category. She beat world high jump champion Heike Henkel and Steffi Graf, who had made it a German double at Wimbledon.

Germany's other tennis idol Boris Becker, who like Graf has already won the annual press award four times, came second in the men's category this year.

Kaiserslautern, who are still in the running for this year's Bundesliga title, took the team prize.

AP adds: Stich was a runaway winner over Davis Cup teammate Boris Becker. Stich earned 2,611 points, while



KATRIN KRABBE

Becker received 1,905. Joerg

Hoffmann, winner of two gold medals at the World Swimming Championships, received 1,154 points to place third in the traditional year-end poll.

Krabbe, who won the 100 and the 200-meter titles at the track and field World Championships, received 4,017 points, while high jump world champion Heike Henkel placed second with 3,141.

Krabbe was also Germany's female Athlete of the Year in 1990.

Tennis' 1988 Grand Slam winner Steffi Graf, who won the title four years in a row between 1986 and 1989, was third with 2,208 points.

None of the country's popular soccer stars was among the top 10, not even national team captain Lothar Matthaeus, who was named player of the year in several domestic and international polls.

But soccer did have a winner in one category. FC Kaiserslautern, winner of the first division soccer title, was voted the country's top team of the year.

Lewis to warm European winter

olympic season. Douglas said the two will run "very select" schedules.

"We may not go to Europe before the US Olympic trials (June 19-28 in New Orleans)," he said. "And we will remain in the US for 12-14 days after their last events in the trials before going to Europe."

Then we will probably compete in about three meets and go to the Barcelona area about 12 days before the Games.

"This will give us the flexibility of training or competing in another meet if one of them needs the competition," Douglas said.

Lewis will be aiming for his third Olympic gold medals in both the 100 metres and long jump at the Barcelona Games and likely will run the 4X100-metre relay.

Burrell will concentrate on the 100 metres and the relay.

which replaces linesmen and makes all calls electronically.

Major results:

Australian Open final:

Boris Becker (Germany) bt Ivan Lendl (Czech) 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

French Open final:

Jim Courier (USA) 3-6, 6-3, 2-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Wimbledon final:

Michael Stich (Germany) bt Boris Becker (Germany) 6-4, 6-4.

US Open final:

Stefan Edberg (Sweden) bt Jim Courier (USA) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0.

ATP Championships:

Pete Sampras (USA) bt Jim Courier (USA) 3-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Grand Slam Cup final:

David Wheaton (USA) bt Michael Chang (USA) 7-5, 6-2, 6-4.

B Bank sports

Sports Reporter

The annual athletics championship of the Bangladesh Bank Club, Dhaka was held yesterday at the Notre Dame College playground, Dhaka.

Shamsur Rahman Mukul and Hossain Ara Begum became the champions in the men's and women's groups respectively.

S B Choudhury, Governor of the Bangladesh Bank, attended the occasion as the chief guest and gave away the awards among the winners.

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