

Abahani grind Wari Club

Sports Reporter

Abahani spinners led by Sri Lankan Ashoka de Silva mesmerised Wari Club in the other tie of the Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Abahani stroled away with an eight-wicket victory after Wari, batting first, were skittled out for 87.

Kamran top scored for Wari with 21.

Right-arm leg-spinner de Silva took four for twelve while left-arm spinner Asif picked up three for 13.

'Offie' Effee joined them with two for 15.

Rahman Lamba with two wickets and one for in his unbeaten 45 made short work of the ridiculously easy target. Abahani finishing on 92 for two in only 19 overs.

Kajal and Rafiqul (Jr) of Wari took one wicket apiece.

Mohammedans, unbeaten yet

Sports Reporter

Sloppy fielding, unsatisfactory umpiring, intermittent peeping of the weak sun in a waning winter marked yesterday's much-vaunted Navana Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium.

Title-aspirants Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting recorded their eighth



ROMESH...91

consecutive win by overcoming a powerful PWD SC with a certain amount of undeserved nonchalance.

Mohammedan skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu won the toss and predictably invited PWD to bat first on a wicket that could only become better, friendlier to the batsmen. Yet Nannu chose to chase instead of making first use of the strip because he perhaps wanted to get rid of the bugaboo of Romesh Kalluwrithana as early as possible with the haze and the moisture of the morning assisting his new ball operators Sri Lankan Gamagee and Jahangir Talukder Dulu.

But his worst fears materialised as Romesh Kalluwrithana, the diminutive

Sri Lankan wicketkeeper-batsman, scored his second consecutive unbeaten half-century to guide his side's total to a very challenging, if not impossible, 213 for five from the stipulated 45 overs.

The beginning of the PWD innings, however, belied any expectations of such a total with Rownakul Islam Tutul flitting with a Gamagee lifter outside the off-stump and managing an edge behind.

Sri Lankan Hamin, the other PWD opener, set about his task slowly but steadily, but one-drop Shaheen lofted Azhar Hossain Shantu, who returned to the Mohammedan fold after a long absence caused by a finger injury, only to be caught by Mohammad Ali stationed at deep midwicket.

In came Romesh and the two batsmen from the Emerald Island started snatching the initiative from the Mohammedan bowlers.

Hamin got his first fifty in this year's league with drives bisecting the mid-on and mid-wicket fence.

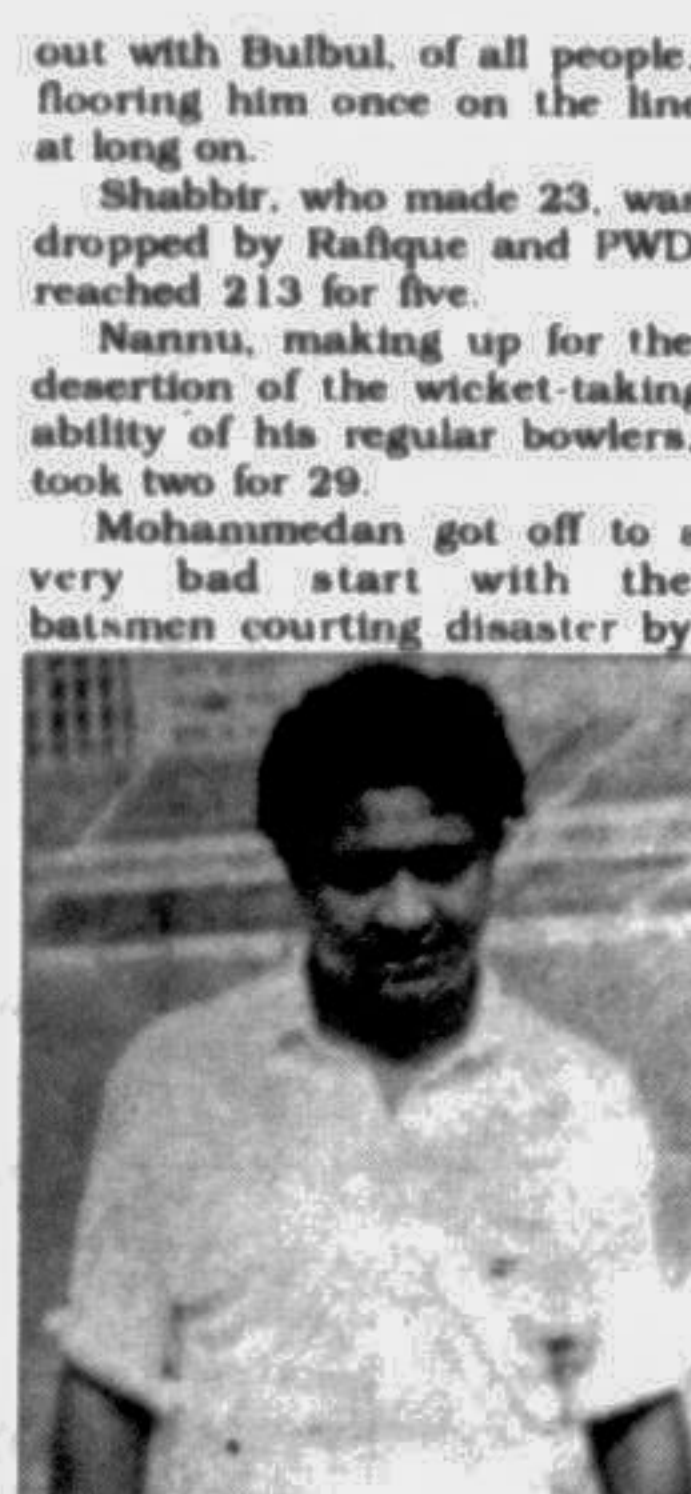
He was out for 58, foxed by a quickish wide delivery outside the leg stump from Aminul Islam Bulbul.

Hamin struck five boundaries in his 96-ball knock.

Romesh was more punitive, hitting ten flawless boundaries and one huge sixer over the long-on midwicket arc.

The shot had class written all over it as the batsman had to improvise to make contact with the ball from Nannu. He danced down the track to lift the bowler with a straight bat, but found it little short and with a slightly crossed bat whacked it for the first over-boundary.

He remained not out on 88 off-65 balls when the overs ran



RAFIQUL ALAM...82

indiscreet running between the wickets.

However, Azhar Hossain Shantoo celebrated his return with a fine 55 inclusive of four fours.

Rafiqul Alam, the torpid Mohammedan batsman, helped his side assault the target with a big innings of 82 before ailing Shaheen to Joydev to deep mid-on.

Rafiqe, who survived a run out and a raucous appeal for a catch behind the wicket, hit three fours and six over long off.

Nannu with an unbeaten 15 completed the formalities.

Shaheen, Tutul, Hamin and Badshah took one wicket apiece as the frustrated PWD fielders fumbled and floored catches.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

A brilliant hatrick by Latif helped Spandan Krira Chakra trounced Mohammad Ali KC 7-0 in the Janata Bank Pioneer football league yesterday at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

Latif scored three goals while Panna, Mijan, Selim and Mohsin netted one goal apiece for the winners.

Following are the highlights of other Pioneer encounters held at different city venues yesterday:

Bashaboo ground — Sunrise KC-one (Tutul), Madartek Chakra Sangsad-nil.

Khligao School ground — Barnali Sangad-three (Shahed 2, Amin), Khligao Smrjony Sangha-two (Lipu) and Rain-bow SC-nil. T&T Recreation-nil.

Mohakhali T&T ground — Govt Printing Press-three (Farhad 2, Mintu), Kurmitola Winners-one (Jahangir).

Banani ground — Kawran Bazar Pragati Sangha-two (Rana, Pappu), Eastern SC-nil.

Dhanmondi ground — Nawab Katra Jubba Sangha-nil, Khwaja Dewan-nil and Fire Service (Jr)-nil. Golum Mostafa, Lane Kishore Sangha-nil.

Dhoopekha ground — Railway Blues-one, Mughdapaara Saraj Kalyan-one.

Mirpur Outer Stadium — Kalabagan KC-three (Liton 2, Zahid), East Bengal-one (Alish).

Lady luck favours Arambagh

Sports Reporter

The discrepancy between appearance and reality, much in a Shakespearean way, was the highlight of the flood-lit encounter of the Star First Division football league in which Arambagh Krira Sangatha earned two vital points by beating Bangladesh Public Works Department by two goals to nil yesterday at the Mirpur Stadium.

PWD, who came into the stage as favourites, moved out of the show rather sad.

Both the goals were scored in the second session of play.

Perhaps the injury of Packer Ally, coach-cum-player of PWD, which forced him to leave the field in the fifth minute was a fatal blow for the office side. The early depart-

ture of Ally caused a crack in the defence which Arambagh capitalised on. It was learnt PWD was sent into a nearby clinic for medical treatment.

Yet PWD made the best use of their power and from the outset looked the better side in all the departments of the game but the lady luck had something very much shocking in store for them.

PWD were denied an early lead when Towhid's powerful grounder from outside the box was gripped by Shaheed Hossain Bijoy somewhat awkwardly in the 26th minute.

Jewel of PWD missed another beautiful chance in 38th minute when he found a ball inside Arambagh box following a melee but kicked the opportunities over the post.

A couple of minutes from the hooter, Towhid received a ball about four meters away from Arambagh box but his powerful right-footer missed the target.

In the first tie of the day, Mukttijodha Sangsad shared points with Farashganj Sporting Club after the engagement ended in a 1-1 draw.

Badal Das put Farashganj ahead in the 35th minute of the first half.

Mizanur Rahman equalised for Mukttijodha ten minutes from the buzzer.

The yellow cards were shown to Liton, Farashganj custodian and Pappu and Rana of Mukttijodha.

TODAY'S MATCHES
BRTC vs Adamjee SCC (3 pm)
Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club vs Dhanmondi SC (5pm).

SA soccer boss guilty of theft

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 23: Flamboyant South African football entrepreneur Abdul Bhamjee was Wednesday found guilty on 33 of 35 counts of theft by the Supreme Court here, reports AFP.

The court found that Bhamjee, known locally as 'Mr soccer', used his position as chief fund-raiser for the professional National Soccer League (NSL) to steal 7.43 million rands (2.67 million dollars) over four years.

Bhamjee had opened two bank accounts through which he channelled NSL sponsorship money to his own business interests and selected individuals, the court said.

Sentencing was postponed until February 10, and Bhamjee's bail of 100,000 rands (35,900 dollars) was extended.

Arambagh, who had been busy in guarding their citadel in the first half, showed a keen desire in carrying out raids in the PWD territory in the second session and in the 16th minute got the one they had been looking for, thanks to Khaled Obayedullah Sohel. He, with a spectacular side volley from inside PWD box, put Arambagh in the lead giving Lahul, the custodian, no chance (1-0).

PWD lost a great chance to come back into the game in the 38th minute when a sharp cross from Munna missed Sohel's nod.

PWD, who was looking for the equaliser, kept on attacking but to their dismay, Sohel, the day's hero doubled the margin to seal the fate of the match for the winners in the 39th minute from a counter attack. Harun aired a cross from the right flank and opportunist Sohel made no mistake in placing the ball past PWD custodian (2-0).

11th Lancer golf today

The eleventh Lancer golf tournament will be held at the Kurmitola Golf course today.

Li General M Nooruddin Khan, psc, the Chief of Army Staff, will inaugurate the competition by tee-ing off at eight in the morning.

He will also give away the trophies at the prize distribution ceremony scheduled for 6:30 the same evening.

Cute handball from tomorrow

The Cute Metropolis First Division handball league, organised by the Bangladesh Handball Federation, begins tomorrow at the Outer Stadium.

Twelve teams, including defending champions Bangladesh Rifles and newcomers West Jatrabari KC will participate in the single league competition.

The teams are: Bangladesh Rifles, Brothers Union, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Ansar, Surjodoy Boys Club, South Maisundi KC, Dhaka Wanderers Club, Tarun Sangsad, Banianagar SC, Dhaka Mariners Club, Victoria SC and West Jatrabari KC.

Two matches will be held daily, at 2:15 and 3:30 pm respectively, except on the opening day.

Retaining champions Bangladesh Rifles will take on the babes West Jatrabari KC at 3:30 pm in the inaugural game.

The sponsors, Cute Products, will provide Tk one lakh out of a total budget one lakh twenty thousand.

This was disclosed by the president of the Bangladesh Handball Federation Lt. Col (Retd) M.A. Hamid at a press conference at the National Sports Council yesterday afternoon.

No Navana tie today

Sports Reporter

There will be no Navana Premier Division cricket league matches today.

The two matches, one between GMCC and Brothers at the Dhaka Stadium and the other between Surja Tarun and Rupal Bank at the Dhanmondi Cricket ground, will now be held tomorrow.

Weather interruptions caused this bodily shift in the fixture. Also, the BCCB had to make the Dhaka Stadium ground available for today's friendly cricket match between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diplomatic Corps. That match begins at 10:30 this morning.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, who is also the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, will lead the MOFA eleven while Alfred K David, high commissioner of Sri Lanka in Bangladesh, is expected to lead the diplomats.

The BCCB will supply the umpires and playing kits.

Victoria for Sports Reporter

Victoria Sporting Club registered a narrow 15-run victory over Agrani Bank in a high-scoring match of the Milnars First Division cricket league at the Pallabi ground yesterday.

Victoria batted first to make 219 for eight wickets with Didar top scoring with 68, studded with seven fours. Jewel with 38 and Mukul with 26 were the other notable scorers.

Chapal with two for 38 and Kallol with two for 54 were the successful Bank bowlers.

Agrani Bank, in their turn, managed 204, losing all ten wickets.

Sohel ploughed in sands with a fine 66 off 79 ball, with five hits to the fence. Atique with 39 and Towrit with 36 tried their best to match Sohel's efforts.

Iqbal of Victoria stood between victory and the bankers with a telling spell that earned him figures of five for 28.

Meanwhile, there is no Milnars match scheduled for today.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Evergreen recorded an impressive 72-run victory against Dhaka Friends Union in the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (west).

Put into bat, Evergreen made a massive 236 run in their stipulated 35 overs with opener Hanif scoring 53 and Azim hitting 47.

Anwar and Litu of Friends Union bagged two wickets apiece.

In their turn, Friends Union were booked for 154 in 32.1 overs.

Anis and Milton made 41 and 29 respectively for Friends.

Manna of Evergreen took three wickets for 29 while Khoka bagged two for 23.

In the other match of the day, at the Dhanmondi Club ground, Gandaria Cricketers beat Rayer Bazar AC by 94 runs.

Sent into bat Gandaria made 231 runs for the loss of six wickets in their allotted 35 overs.

Mafiz top scored with 54 hitting five boundaries while Debu made an unbeaten 40 for Gandaria.

Sayid, the most successful Rayer Bazar bowler, captured four wickets for 39 runs.

In their reply, Rayer Bazar were all out for 137 runs in 25.4 overs with Sayid again making an impact by scoring 33 and Niogi hitting 31 respectively.

Titu bagged five wickets for 26 while Rashed and Zakir took two wickets each for Gandaria.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Azad Boys Club vs Kakrail Boys Club (DCS)
Nabin Sangha vs East End Club (DCG)

Botham unsure of inclusion

NEW PLYMOUTH, New Zealand, Jan 23: England's veteran cricketer Ian Botham is hopeful he can get his 100th Test cap while in New Zealand but conceded Thursday the team was good without him, reports AFP.

Botham arrived here Wednesday from a pantomime season in Britain just as the England team were completing a sensational victory over New Zealand.

"It was tremendous and I was very pleased for the team," Botham said. "I have no problems with sitting on the sideline."

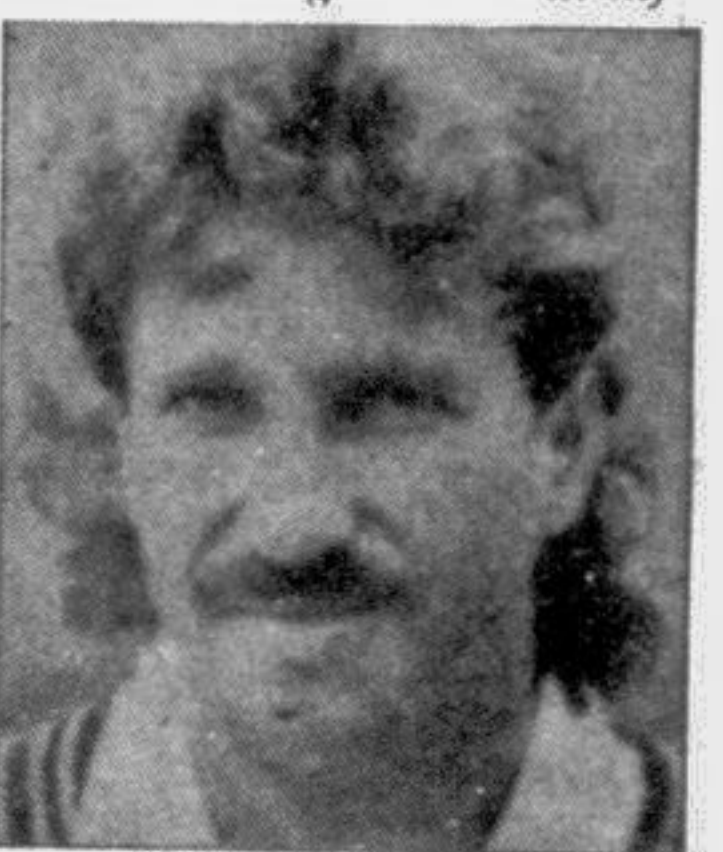
"To be realistic about it I think Gooch (Graham Gooch, the England captain) has plans for me at the World Cup (rather) than here anyway."

Botham would have managed his 100th Test appearance in Britain last year but for a hamstring injury. With the second Test due to start next week he would like to add the

honour to a string of other successes.

"It was a frustrating summer otherwise I would have come here with 102-103 Tests or with 103-104 one-day internationals," he said.

"I'd be delighted to win my



IAN BOTHAM

100th cap. But it's unrealistic.

"The team played very well and the lads have been out here a lot longer than I have been so you've got to be realistic."

Tufnell prefers rich hauls

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Jan 23: England's left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell, who took a match-winning seven for 47 in the Test match against New Zealand on Wednesday, is getting the habit of big wicket hauls, reports Reuter.

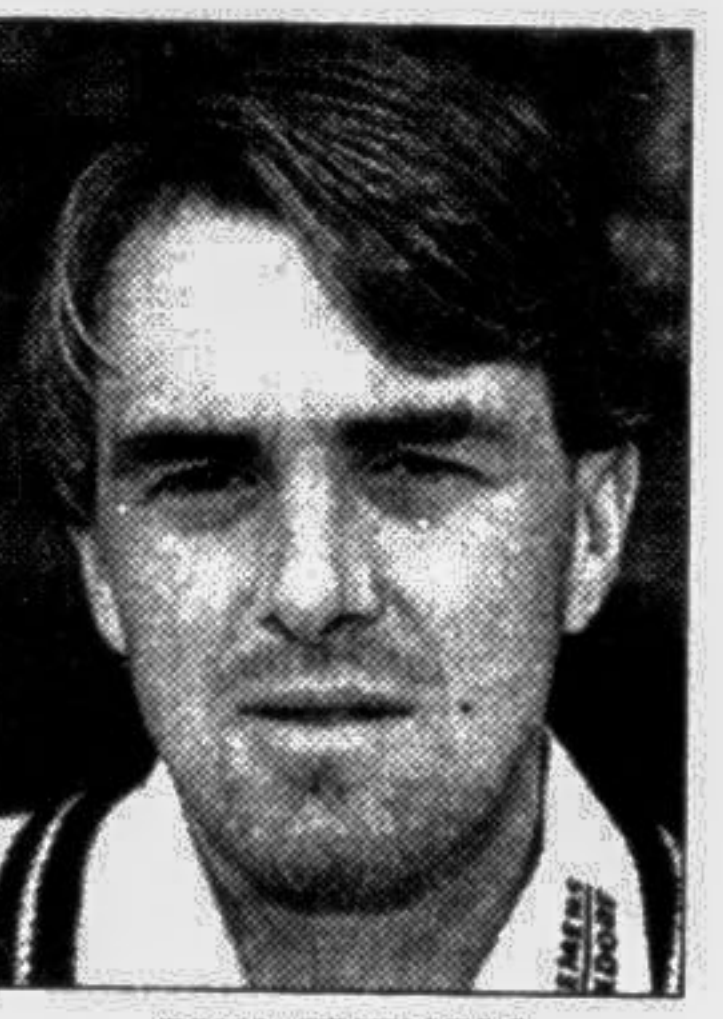
Tufnell has played just seven Tests for England but has now taken five wickets or more in four of those matches.

English fans were saying on Wednesday — perhaps a mite prematurely — that a new Derek Underwood had been discovered in the 25-year-old with a broad London accent who plays for Middlesex.

Tufnell had already grabbed a fair share of the honours in New Zealand's first innings on Monday. He took four wickets for 21 runs before Dipak Patel and Chris Cairns spooled his total innings figures, which ended at four for 100.

With New Zealand forced to follow on, Tufnell was frustrated for most of the final day, but in his own words, "kept nagging away" until opener John Wright decided he could wait no longer for his century and tried to hit Tufnell to the boundary.

The ball was hardly spinning but beat Wright, who was



PHIL TUFNELL

stumped.

Tufnell cannot retain his emotions. He scowls and laughs during games and his slouching walk to the boundary turned into a bouncing jog at the end of the ensuing overs.

New Zealand's batsmen, surrounded by England fielders, panicked as Tufnell plugged away, and he had recorded second innings figures of seven for 47 from a marathon 46-over spell when captain Martin Crowe lofted his final delivery to Derek Pringle.

With match figures of 11 for

"But if I can score 200 and take 10 wickets and put pressure on someone then so be it."

He looked in good form with the bat in a brief net session Thursday as England prepared to meet Central Districts Friday.

Botham is expected to play, although England have delayed naming a team.

Fast bowler David Lawrence still remains an outside chance, England coach Mickey Stewart wants to name his side after taking stock Friday morning.

Lawrence bowled three overs this afternoon at increasing pace.

"He's progressing very well," Stewart said. "But we'll have to see in the morning."

England manager Bob Bennett also confirmed that who made his Test debut in Christchurch, was recovering from his bout of food poisoning.

"He's a bit weak but he's coming around."

147 — some of the finest recorded in recent years by an English bowler — Tufnell was understandably pleased.

Nicknamed 'the cat' for his habit of taking catnaps in dressing rooms, Tufnell has no great theories about why he has been successful.

Team captain Graham Gooch said: "He's really come on with experience, especially in his fielding."

Tufnell's fielding cost him his place in the England side in 1990 to Richard Illingworth, who flew to New Zealand on Wednesday to join the England squad before the cricket World Cup.

He regained his place last summer when his haul of six for 25 against the West Indies allowed England to square the series.

Tufnell has shown considerably maturity in New Zealand, refusing to be drawn into a debate on allegations he "chucks" a few deliveries by bending his elbow just before delivery.

He was also picked out for abuse by the crowd at Auckland for England's first one-day international against New Zealand two weeks ago, when his tight figures of none for 17 from 10 overs helped his team to a seven-wicket victory.

The IAAF demands that all three main track and field bodies in South Africa unite before it will readmit the country to full international competition.

The South African Amateur Athletics Union and the South African Amateur Athletics congress have joined, but the anti-apartheid South African Amateur Athletics Board remains at odds with them.

Gyulal said South African representatives had sought to have their case considered at this week's meeting of the IAAF council in Mexico City.

SA could still go to Barcelona

MEXICO CITY, Jan 23: The administrator of the world's top track and field body said Wednesday an Olympic ban on South African track athletes could be lifted even at the last minute if that country meets international conditions, reports AP.

"Technically, it's possible on the first day of the Olympic games," said Istvan Gyulal, secretary general of the 186-country International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Gyulal told a news conference that the matter was more likely to be taken up at the IAAF council's next meeting in May, in Canada. But he added, "meetings can be called and meetings can be summoned."

The International Olympic Committee has given South Africa general permission to participate in the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, following years of banishment because of racial discrimination in that country.

But South Africa still must win approval from international governing bodies in in-

Seles sweeps Sanchez aside

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: Defending champion Monica Seles crushed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in straight sets Thursday to advance to the final of the Australian Open, reports AP.

Seles, the top seed in the women's singles, defeated No. 4-seed Sanchez Vicario 6-2, 6-2 with a ruthless display of tennis prowess.

She will face seventh-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States in Saturday's final.

The Yugoslav-born Seles, 18, is aiming for the fifth Grand Slam title of her short but spectacular career.

Sanchez Vicario, 20, the French Open champion in 1989, had been aiming to make the third Grand Slam final of her career.

Seles made the final of all 16 tournaments she entered in 1991—winning the Australian, French and US Opens. She missed Wimbledon due to shin splints.

"As each match here goes by, I'm playing better tennis," Seles said after her victory. "I hit the ball much better than in any match I've played up to here and my serve was back, to that made a big difference."

Seles has been troubled by a neck muscle injury that has

effected her service motion.

The Florida-based left-hander has an 8-0 lifetime record against Sanchez Vicario. The Spaniard did not have the weapons to trouble her.

"If she plays like this it is very hard to beat her,"



MONICA SELES

Sanchez Vicario said: "She is the best player at the moment. She is very consistent and aggressive and she puts so much pressure on you. She controlled all the points so well."

Seles dropped her opening service game at love. But she immediately broke right back, and at 2-2 went on streak to win seven straight games.

Sanchez Vicario staged a brief recovery, rallying from 0-3 to 2-3 in the second set, but Seles quickly re-established control and won the last three games for the match.

Seles repeatedly ripped winners past the stocky baseliner, who lacked the power with which to effectively retaliate. Seles' win took her exactly an hour.

"She had more confidence as the match went on, and she started hitting more winners," Sanchez Vicario said. "I have to improve my serve to play against Monica. She just controlled the points better than me."

Seles said she had not gone into the match with any special game plan.

"My game plan was to just go out and hit the ball," she said.

"Then everything starts going well."

"I know I had to play a great match against Arantxa — she gets so many balls back," Seles said.

No men's singles action was scheduled for Thursday. Both semifinals are slated for Friday.

Top seed Stefa Edberg of Sweden plays unseeded South African Wayne Ferreira and second-seeded Jim Courier of the United States faces unseeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek.

Fernandez stuns Sabatini

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: American seventh seed, Mary-Joe Fernandez played the finest tennis of her young career to upset Argentinean Gabriela Sabatini today and book an Australian Open final showdown against Monica Seles, reports Reuter.

Fernandez, 20, beaten by the number three seed in their last six matches, changed tactics, aggressively attacking Sabatini and forcing errors with her fierce forehand drives and dominating the net.

The Argentinean, 21, who had easily beaten Fernandez earlier this month in straight sets at the New South Wales Open, quite simply did not know what had hit her and was beaten 6-1, 6-4 in 84 minutes.

After being broken in the first game of the match, Fernandez took a stranglehold on the set by breaking back immediately, reeling off eight points in a row to break Sabatini's service.

Sabatini's game was riddled with unforced errors as she battled to halt Fernandez's bombardment.

Fernandez went on to win the set in only 26 minutes, wrapping it up on her own service with a punishing cross-court forehand drive after Sabatini had desperately retrieved her smash.

Fernandez broke Sabatini early in the second set but the world number three produced a flicker of defiance, saving three game points on her service before making it 3-4 in the longest game points on her service before making it 3-4 in the longest game of the match, then breaking Fernandez to make it 4-4.



MARY-JOE FERNANDEZ

But Fernandez was not to be denied and broke back immediately, setting up game point with a superb double-fisted backhand and winning the break when Sabatini mis-hit a service return.

Fernandez quickly went to 40-15 after Sabatini had netted a relatively easy volley and then a simple backhand. She wrapped up the match 6-4 with a backhand volley at the net.

Fernandez, who has done better here than at any other Grand Slam tournament, said her coach Harold Solomon had persuaded her to change her strategy for the match.

"I had to do something dramatically different to beat her. I tried to attack, to come into the net more," Fernandez told reporters.

"It's still not easy. I have got to get it into my head to go in," she added. "I had to pick the right time."

"It's hard after you have played a certain way for so many years, it's hard to change," she said.

Fernandez, who lost here to world number two Steffi Graf in the 1990 final, lost to Seles in last year's semi-final.

"I am going to have to be aggressive and go for it (in the final). I know it's not going to be easy, it's never going to be easy against Monica," she added.

Sabatini, who had been in superb form on the way to the semi-finals, said she did not play well and was rattled by Fernandez's change of tactics.

"She played better than last week (in the New South Wales Open) and changed her strategy and I was getting frustrated," she told reporters.

"I was probably surprised by how well she was doing it", she added.

"She is always there, she's a player who you will always have to watch," she added.

Krajicek hurts his shoulder

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 23: Australian Open semifinalist Richard Krajicek, on the eve of his match against Jim Courier, pulled out of a doubles semifinals match Thursday because of tendinitis in his shoulder, reports AP.

"It feels stiff and sore," Krajicek said as he went for an examination with a doctor following his defeat in a match with partner Jan Siemiatk against the Australian team of Mark Woodford and Todd Woodbridge. The Australians led 3-1 in the second set after losing 6-4 in the first of the best-of-five match.

Krajicek, a 20-year-old from the Netherlands, is one of the hardest servers in tennis.