

Waugh's help Aussies win big

HOBART, Mar 14: Steve and Mark Waugh kept alive Australia's slim chance of reaching the World Cup cricket semifinals by demolishing Zimbabwe today, reports Reuter.

The Waugh brothers hammered 113 runs in 69 balls to push Australia's total to 265 for six in a match cut by four overs to 46 after a break for light rain at Bellerive Oval.

They then had a hand in dismissing Zimbabwe for 137 in 41.4 overs. Mark taking two catches and Steve snatching his two wickets, Andy Flower and Andy Pycroft, in successive balls.

To qualify for the semifinals, Australia, now with three wins from seven matches, must beat West Indies next Wednesday and hope for beneficial results from games involving their other main rivals, Pakistan and South Africa.

Australia dropped opener Geoff Marsh and kept Tom Moody to begin the batting with David Boon, but Moody was run out for six with the total on eight.

Boon (48) and captain Allan Border (22) made useful contributions until the Waugh brothers took control.

Steve, who survived a chance to the wicketkeeper before he had scored, hit 55 off 43 balls and Mark struck an unbeaten 66 off only 39 balls, with two sixes and five fours.

Zimbabwean openers Andy Flower and Ali Shah patiently built a solid base, reaching 47 without loss of 15 overs, but the run rate virtually doomed their relatively novice side to defeat.

Shah was run out by a fine throw by Bruce Reid from the deep, having top scored with 24, followed by Flower (20) and Pycroft (0) to make it 51 for three in the 19th over.

Wickets then fell at regular intervals, giving Australia a wide victory margin to improve their net run rate. Even so, their chances of a place in the last four remained slim.

Border said of the Cup holders' continuing cliffhanger. "We probably don't deserve to reach the finals but we are in with a chance. This run-rate thing is going to be important," he said, satisfied that his side had hammered a big total against Zimbabwe.

Semifinal positions are to be decided on run-rate if teams finish level on points

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STEVE WAUGH... man-of-the-match

and wins.

He said that, despite the comparative weakness of the opposition, Australia played well as a team at a stage when maintaining morale was critical.

"It was necessary that we played like that today as a team," he added.

Zimbabwe captain David Houghton said that, having kept Australia to 144 for four, he felt his side might have been in with a chance.

He won the toss and put Australia in to bat on the basis that Zimbabwe's batting was stronger than the bowling, giving them a better chance of chasing a total.

But he said Australia remained a champion side. "They still came out and played positively," he said. "If they play against the West Indies the way they played today, I would back them 80 to 20 to win."

"We seemed to get things together well today," Border said.

"For once, things went according to plan." Pace bowler Michael Whitney said the Australian players were aware of what they needed to do.

"We all knew we had to win this game," Whitney said. "We pulled out all the stops and won pretty well."

The score of 265 was Australia's highest of the tournament.



MARK WAUGH... 66 no

named.

Dean Jones and Boon looked dangerous but Ali Shah broke through for Zimbabwe with his second last ball of 24th over.

Shah bowled Boon when the star batsman was two short of his half-century to have Australia at 102 for two.

Border came in at number four and belted 22 off 29 balls until he was stumped by wicketkeeper Andy Flower off a delivery from spinner John Tricos.

The Waugh brothers then took Zimbabwe apart.

"We did pretty well up to a certain stage, but in the last 10 overs they stamped all over us," said Zimbabwe captain David Houghton.

"Sometimes it seemed as if we'd lost four fielders." Opener Shah and Flower put on 47 for the first wicket, but the rest of the Zimbabwe batsmen crumpled.

Shah, top-scored with 24 while the burly Brandes made 23.

Whitney took two wickets for 15 in a controlled performance, while Steve Waugh took two for 23 and Peter Taylor two for 14 to help wrap-up the trail.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the rain-reduced World Cup cricket match between Australia and Zimbabwe at Bellerive Oval today:

AUSTRALIA	
Moody run out	6
Boon b Shaha	48
Jones b Burmester	54
Border st Flower b Traicos	22
M Waugh not out	66
S Waugh b Brandes	55
I Healy lbw b duers	0
P Taylor not out	1
Extras (b-2 lb-8 nb-1 w-2)	13
Total (six wickets - 46 overs)	265
Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-102; 3-134; 4-144; 5-257; 6-258.	
Did not bat: C McDermott, M Whitney, B Reid	
Bowling	
Brandes	9 0 59 1
Burmester	9 0 65 1
Shah	9 0 53 1
Duers	9 1 48 1
Traicos	10 0 30 1

ZIMBABWE
Shah run out 24
Flower c Border b S. Waugh 20
Pycroft c M Waugh b S. Waugh 0
Campbell c M Waugh 0
Whitney 4
Houghton b McDermott 2
Waller c Taylor b Moody 18
Arnott b Whitney 8
Brandes c McDermott b Taylor 23
Burmester c Border b Reid 12
Traicos c Border b Taylor 3
Duers not out 2
Extras (lb-11 w-8 nb-2) 21
Total (41.4 overs) 137

Fall of wickets: 1-47; 2-51; 3-51; 4-57; 5-69; 6-88; 7-97; 8-117; 9-132

Bowling:
McDermott 8 0 26 1
Reid 9 3 18 1
Whitney 10 3 15 2
S. Waugh 7 0 28 2
Taylor 3.4 0 14 2
Moody 4 0 25 1 (1w)

Result: Australia won by 128 runs
Man-of-the-match: Steve Waugh



South Africa's Johty Rhodes dives headlong onto the stumps to run out Pakistan's Inzamamul Haq during World Cup match in Brisbane on March 8. —Star file photo

Imran hopes injection will do the trick

PERTH, Mar 14: Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan has had a cortisone injection in his injured right shoulder in an eleventh-hour bid to hoist his side into the World Cup semifinals, reports Reuter.

Imran, the 39-year-old champion all-rounder, made the decision to have the injection because he wants to be able to bowl without pain in Pakistan's crucial last two qualifying games against Sri Lanka at the Waca Ground here on Sunday, and New Zealand in Christchurch next Wednesday.

"We obviously have to win both matches to have prospects of lining up in the last four," Imran said here on Saturday.

"If the injection works out alright, I will be able to operate more freely than at any other time in the tournament," he said.

I have been resting the shoulder completely since the injection, so I hope I can get off to a pain-free start in the Sri Lanka game." Imran missed the first

three games of the nine-nation contest, but has shown good form with the ball in the past three, even though he could not stretch out because of the discomfort.

If he is free of pain on Sunday, he could give extra bite to an attack which is already firing well, with Wasim Akram and Aaqib Javed proving a hostile new-ball duo.

Imran said his side were obviously pleased with the way they played against Australia on Wednesday, when they won by 48 runs.

"We just hope that wasn't too late," he said.

"We have plenty of confidence for this match, but in a one-day fixture you cannot take any side lightly. Sri Lanka have already caused one major upset by beating South Africa, and they are quite capable of beating us."

One thing haunting Imran is the possibility of rain interrupting the game and causing an unrealistically difficult target for the side batting second.

Pakistan was on the receiving end of this type of injustice last Sunday when they were beaten by South Africa after rain had shortened the game in Brisbane. Imran said: "The last thing we want is for the weather to come into the calculations. That is a real worry."

The forecast suggests there could be rain during the game. Light rain drove players from the practice nets at the Waca Ground on Saturday, forcing them to go through their paces indoors.

Imran said it was likely Pakistan would field an unchanged side.

The Sri Lankans arrived in Perth late on Saturday after Friday's match against the West Indies in Berri, South Australia, and had time for only a light workout.



IMRAN KHAN

Cloud over McMillan's fitness

ADELAIDE, Mar 14: South Africa may gamble on the fitness of key allrounder Brian McMillan for Sunday's vital World Cup cricket match against India at Adelaide Oval, reports AP.

The burly McMillan has an Achilles tendon injury and needed painkilling injections to play against England on Thursday.

South Africa will clinch a semifinal spot in its first World Cup appearance if it defeats India.

The Indians, World Cup winners in 1983, already have been eliminated from semifinal contention.

"Brian has been advised not to play, but obviously we want him there," said South African coach Mike Procter. "It is desperation stakes for us now, but we don't want to mess the guy up."

If McMillan is ruled out, he will be replaced by either spinner Omar Henry or pace-

man Tertius Bosch. "Our strategy has been pace and that's been our strength, but by the same token we're not discounting Omar," said South African captain Kepler

Wessels.



BRIAN MCMILLAN

Wessels. For the first time in the competition, South Africa will have had some experience

against its opponent. It played three limited-overs matches in India last year, losing the series 2-1.

Despite a tense loss to England last Thursday night, Wessels said his side had grown in confidence with each Cup game.

"They know what to expect, and they know what they can do, so they probably just feel a little bit more at ease," he said.

"They've seen they can beat any of the teams."

Meanwhile, International Cricket Council chairman Sir Colin Cowdrey on Saturday praised of South Africa's World Cup contribution.

"Let's face it, the game of cricket has missed the South Africans," Cowdrey said. "I've been very impressed with how quickly South Africa has settled in, especially with a young side."

The former England captain will watch the new South African team for the first time at Adelaide Oval.

CUP STANDINGS

World Cup cricket standings after Saturday's match (Tabulate under played, won, lost, no result, points, net run-rate):

New Zealand	6	0	0	12	0.78
England	6	5	0	11	0.89
West Indies	7	4	3	0	0.26
South Africa	7	4	3	0	0.34
Australia	7	3	4	0	0.06
India	7	2	4	1	0.18
Pakistan	6	3	3	0	0.10
Sri Lanka	7	2	4	1	0.78
Zimbabwe	7	0	7	0	-1.39

Note: Net run-rate is difference between batting and bowling rates. Under competition rules, runs scored in no-result matches are not included in run-rate.

Windies selector hopeful of semis

PORT OF SPAIN, Mar 14: Chairman of selections Jackie Hendriks expects West Indies to reach the World Cup cricket semifinals despite admitting they have not played to their potentials, reports Reuter.

He blamed indiscriminate batting and fielding for their uneven performance in the early round robin games. They are now third in the nine team standings.

Former Test wicketkeeper Hendriks is here as manager of West Indies second string side for the first match of their three Test series against the England squad.

He said the World Cup team seemed to have got things together now, judging from their recent victories against India and Sri Lanka.

The Caribbean press has reflected widespread public indignation over the mediocre performance of the side in the tournament.

Modesty wins day

LONDON, Mar 14: Modesty won the day at the All England badminton championships on Friday after a row blew up about women umpires having to show a leg, reports Reuter.

Trouble started when a new hydraulic umpire chair was introduced by sponsors for the show court on the final two days.

Women umpires complained that the first step was so high that their skirts offered scant protection from the public gaze as they clambered up to take their position.

Although keen to fulfil their duties they protested to tournament director Tom Marris and an old fashioned British compromise was reached. Organisers promised to install an intermediate step and honour was preserved all round.

England camp a casualty ward

WELLINGTON, Mar 14: England may be forced to field several unfit players in Sunday's World Cup cricket match against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve, reports AP.

England intended to rest captain Graham Gooch, pace bowler Phillip DeFreitas and allrounder Dermot Reeve for the contest between the two unbeaten teams in the nine-nation tournament. All three have niggling injuries.

That plan was complicated Saturday when allrounder Chris Lewis and middle-order batsman Neil Fairbrother were stricken by a virus.

England now will wait until half an hour before the start of the match before deciding on its team.

"It seems that both Chris Lewis and Neil Fairbrother have some kind of viral problem," England coach Micky Stewart said.

Fairbrother also has a badly swollen throat. Allrounder Ian Botham has a swollen ankle and an infected finger, which prevented him

is not keen to take the risk in a match between two teams already assured of semifinal places.

DeFreitas also has a groin strain, while Reeve has a pulled buttock muscle.

"At the moment, I couldn't tell you one way or the other who will play," Stewart said.

South African-born batsman Allan Lamb, who has been sidelined for three weeks with a hamstring injury, will make his first appearance of the tournament for England.

Allan is OK," Stewart said. "He did some fielding today and before that he did some stretching and running."

England defeated New Zealand 2-0 in a pre-World Cup Test series and beat the New Zealanders 3-0 in a limited overs series.

England is unbeaten in its last 11 matches, but New Zealand has won all six of its Cup matches to date.

"They've done well and picked themselves up after we

left here," Stewart said. "Then they did well against Australia in the first game and used that as a platform. Their confidence is much higher than when we left here."

New Zealand has pace bowler Danny Morrison sidelined with a groin strain, but the rest of the Kiwi players are fit.

Captain Martin Crowe said New Zealand was approaching the match with caution.

"I wouldn't say we are favourites, but I think it will be a good contest," he said.

"We want a hard game, because then we'll know how we measure up against a form team."

Crowe said he couldn't find many flaws in the England line-up. "There aren't too many weaknesses there," he said. "The match will be played on the slow wicket used for the West Indies-India match."

Cowdrey's praise for S Africa

ADELAIDE, Mar 14: International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Sir Colin Cowdrey has acclaimed

South Africa's contribution to the World Cup on their tournament debut, reports Reuter.

A cautious supporter of South Africa's readmittance to the ICC last July and subsequent late inclusion in the World Cup, Sir Colin said on Friday: "Let's face it, the game of cricket has missed the South Africans."

"I've been very impressed with how quickly South Africans settled in, especially with a young side."



COLIN COWDREY

Former England captain Cowdrey will watch the New South African team for the first time on Sunday when they face India here needing victory to secure a semifinal place.

Careful not to be drawn into South Africa's political situation, Sir Colin was aware that it could also be the last time he watched their cricketers in view of the republic's reform referendum on March 17.

Support at the polls for the resurrection of apartheid would negate all the hard work undertaken to bring South Africa back into international cricket, with next month's tour of the West Indies a potential early casualty.

Sir Colin said if the worst occurred, and he hoped it would not, the ICC would leave it to the respective cricket boards to sort out whether to proceed with the tour, which includes a Test and three one-day internationals.

Having been ill with pneumonia recently, Sir Colin has only just arrived for the Cup, but felt its impact while on holiday in the Caribbean.

"I've just been in Barbados and everyone down the street, in the shops or in the taxis knows exactly what happened ball by ball," he said.

The Cup has been a terrific fillip for the game worldwide.

If its political situation continues to follow a reform policy, South Africa is sure to bid to host the next World Cup in 1996, but Sir Colin said a decision on the venue would not be made until midway through next year.

Judo coaching

Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation (BJKF) has launched a coaching camp for the local judokas and karatekas at two different city venues, says a BJKF press release.

Those who are interested to undergo coaching have been advised to contact the officials of the Dhaka Indoor Gymnasium adjacent to the Abahani play-ground, Dhanmondi between 3 and 4.30 in the afternoon for judo while enlistment for karate coaching will be conducted at the National Sports Council between 5 and 7 in the evening everyday.

Whitney comments irk Pakistanis

PERTH, Mar 14: Australian pace bowler Michael Whitney was allowed to say anything about day after Whitney made comments about incidents in Wednesday's World Cup match between the teams, reports AP.

The Pakistanis asked the World Cup committee to explain the new international code of conduct rules, expressing surprise Whitney had made public statements.

If the rules allow it, Pakistan players want to put their side of incidents in the match.

Whitney clashed with wicketkeeper Moin Khan. After the match, he alleged the wicketkeeper had called him a cheat.

Whitney and Moin became the first players to breach the code of conduct. Each was fined \$100 and severely reprimanded after their verbal altercation.

Another Pakistan player, Aamir Sohail, received a similar penalty over a separate incident.

After newspapers reported Whitney's comments about the confrontation, Pakistan put in a formal request to World Cup committee chairman David Richards, seeking clarification of rules governing whether players can comment on incidents.

Pakistan captain Imran Khan said Saturday he was "concerned" about Whitney's statements and said he wanted a ruling on whether the comments broke further rules of the code.

"We are going along with the code of conduct and I didn't realise players were allowed to say anything about

we have stopped our players from saying anything, thinking that they weren't allowed to. Whitney has said something, and we would like to put our point across if it is allowed under the code."

Whitney said he had made contact with Moin, and said he had been responding to comments from the keeper that he was a cheat.

International Cricket Council rules operate in the World Cup.

One rule says "players and team officials shall not disclose or comment upon any alleged breach of the code or upon any hearing, report or decision arising from such breach."

Players can be suspended for up to three matches for breaches of the code.

Tough draw for Chinese shuttlers

LONDON, Mar 14: The Chinese shuttlers face a daunting challenge if they are to win badminton's Thomas and Uber Cups for an unprecedented fourth time in a row in Malaysia in May, according to the draw made here yesterday, reports Xinhua.

The Chinese teams were paired with fierce rivals Indonesia in the league sections of both tournaments to be held from May 6 to 16 in Kuala Lumpur.

Tarun trounce Gulshan Youth

Sports Reporter

Surja Tarun Club crushed Gulshan Youth Club by nine wickets in the Navana Premier Division relegation league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. The win, however, has no bearing on the fate of the three teams to be relegated to the Milnars First Division league as both teams are out of that danger.

Invited to bat first, Gulshan Youth mustered a paltry 144 from their quota of 45 overs for the loss of nine wickets. Skipper Rupam batted delightfully to range a lone battle with a fine unbeaten innings of 66. Rupam played 111 balls and hit four exquisite boundaries. Wicket-keeper Ishteaq used the long handle to smash a quick 23 off 27 balls.

Suppi, the left-arm Tarun swing bowler bowled beautifully with the new ball to claim three for 17. Salfat, the young left-arm spinner, bowled with his usual frugal manner to finish with two for 25. Babu took two for 24.

Tarun were given a roaring start by seasoned Nurul Hadi who remained not out on 59. Hadi played 94 balls and struck nine fours. Javed Omar Belim Golla remained not out on 50 with five fours as Tarun got 145 runs from 29.3 overs, for one wicket only.

With Rupali Bank and Wart certain to be relegated, the third team will now be decided through a playoff match between Kalabagan and Lalmitia on next Wednesday, March 18, at the Dhaka Stadium.

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MIKE WHITNEY

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Football coaching camp concludes

Sports Reporter

The certificate awarding ceremony of the coaching camp for the local football coaches which was jointly organized by the Bangladesh Football Federation and German Football Association will be held at the National Sports Council tomorrow.

State Minister of Sports and Youth Sadek Hossain will attend the function as chief guest while the German ambassador to Bangladesh will be present as a special guest.