Windies, SA tired of the grind



tears when their busy -one-day cricket schedule staggers to an overdue halt in Trinidad this weekend, reports Reuter.

Local fans with a sense of political history are almost the only people showing much enthusiasm for the final two matches of a best-of-three 50over series between the teams at Queen's Park Oval today and Sunday.

South Africa's Test comeback after 22 years, starting in Barbados on Saturday week, will be a different story but months of constant travelling have taken their toll on appetites for the limited-over version.

"It feels like I've played five years of one-day cricket in six months," sighed West Indian skipper Richie Richardson, under pressure after his sides failure in the recent World

Before that, West Indies were also involved in the World Series Triangular tournament in Australia and Richardsons admitted: "If you've got a problem, it can be difficult to find time to work it out."



KEPLER WESSELS

South African counterpart Kepler Wessels, whose side have also played nothing but one-day cricket since January, agreed there were several tired bodies in the visiting dressing-room.

"As long as we can time our best form for the start of the five-day game we'll be happy". said Wessels, as he revealed a change of policy in the wake of South Africa's crushing 107run defeat in Tuesdays opening game in Jamaica.

On arrival in the Caribbean, Wessels said the tourists would be fielding their best team in every match but he indicated on Thursday every player in the squad is likely to play at

RICHIE RICHARDSON

least one game.

Pace Bowler Allan Donald for one, has confessed he woke up not feeling like playing cricket before the Kingston game.

We were outplayed virtually from the moment the game started," said Donald.

"I'm very sick of one-day cricket at the moment. But we had to get woken up sometime. Having been beaten like that the guys will be more positive and the attitude this weekend will be more aggressive. We needed to get stirred up a bit.'

Trinidad is home to the biggest crowds in the Caribbean, but once again the

main focus of discontent could be Richardson rather than the tourists.

Television polls indicate general support for South Africa's presence, but no one can guarantee Richardson will not be booed again as he was in Jamaica.

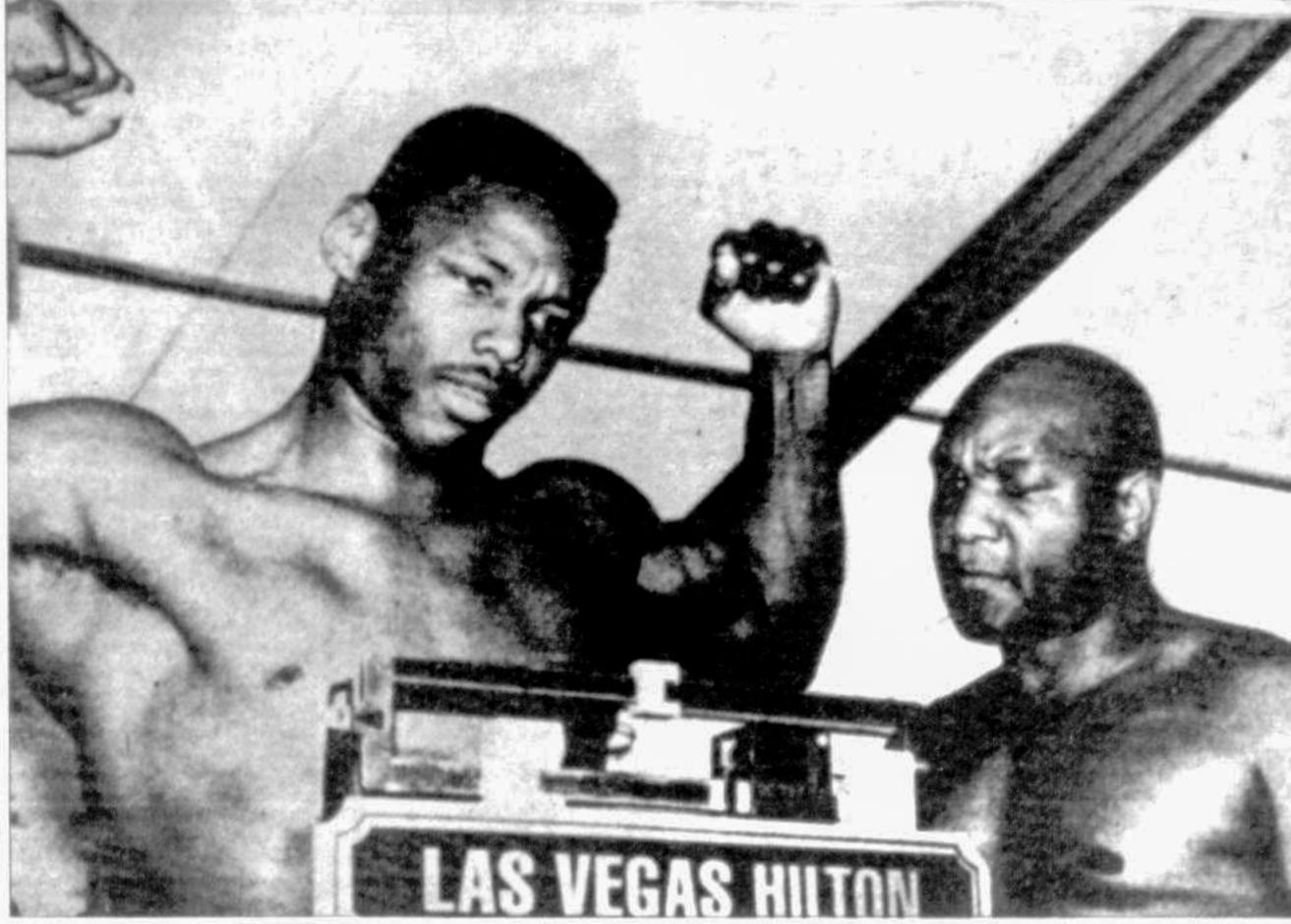
"A lot of people are saying there's trouble in the camp But I'm the captain, I should know and I haven't noticed anything," Richardson said

They have criticised me for not wanting to win enough against South Africa in the World Cup. We wanted to win. Who as a black man would not have wanted to beat South Africa?"

Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said the short tour would be the first time since 1978 the West Indies Board had not made a

Bacher also reiterated his belief that the South African development squad, touring alongside the national team, are a major factor in the republic's cricketing future.

"The face of South African cricket is going to change by the end of the decade. The kids you see now will come through and be a credit to their country", Bacher said.



George Foreman (R) watches as Alex Stewart weighs, the day before their scheduled fight in Las Vegas on April 10. Stewart weighed in at 227 pounds and Foreman topped the scale at 259. — AFP photo

SAgo from wilderness to Windies

For South Africa, coming out of the

wilderness is one thing. Touring the West Indies on a tide of sympathy is quite another.

That is how the erstwhile pariahs of international cricket will travel to their first ever meeting with their previously implacable foes.

The brief visit — three oneday internationals and one Test - to the Caribbean in April was guaranteed to be a success once South Africa had emerged from 21 years of isolation with a scarcely deserved welcome in India last November.

Their stirring performances in the World Cup, the debacle of their rule-ruined semi-final defeat by England and the good grace with which they accepted the farce, have guaranteed that even those West Indians who felt their visit might have been arranged with indecent haste will now look kindly on Kepler Wessels and his team.

For how long? Not only did the South Africans demonstrate that they were anything but naive mugs in the cauldron of international cricket. They showed they can meet fire with fire when it comes to fast bowing.

To imagine how the Caribbean cricket buff would cope with a dusting from an all-white South Africa in his own backyard we could to worse than borrow from the phrase-book of hard-line prime minister John Vorster, who once deemed majority rule in his country as "too ghastly to contemplate."

South Africas progress whether in the corridors of power or the coaching ses sions of Soweto - since Vorster's dark heyday is well documented.

Cricket has not only widened its appeal to the townships, but it has also encompassed more Afrikaners who make up four of the current 11, including skipper

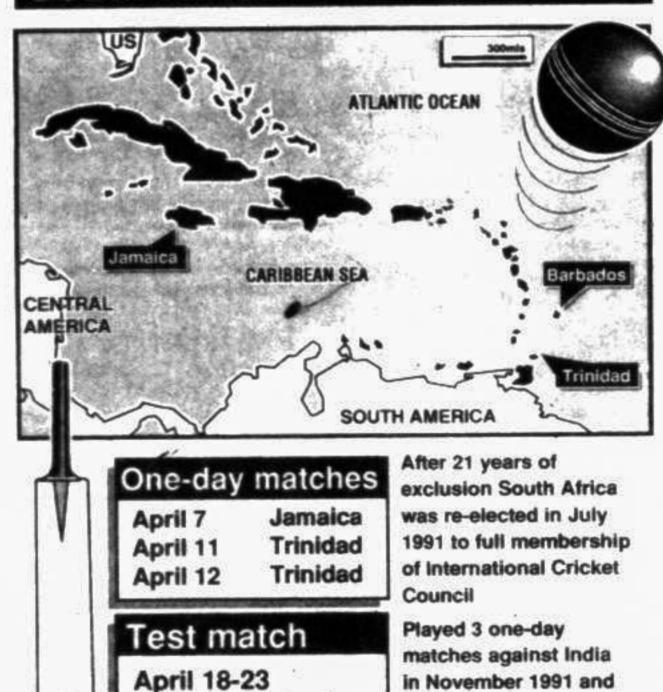
Yet the game was once considered so much the preserve of the English-speakers that Vorster, on hearing that four English wickets had fallen during a Test between England and South Africa, replied crustily: "Our English or their English ?"

Having far exceeded their expectations in Australia, the English and Africaners could hardly be more motivated as they now take on a West Indies in transition, knowing that victory, if not eradicating over two decades of isolation, would render it less harmful to their game than previously imag-

Remarkably, after being banished from the scene just as it had assembled what was indisputably the finest side in By Bob Holmes

After an impressive performance in the World Cup, where they reached the semi-final, South Africans are touring the West Indies to play three one-day internationals and their first Test. South Africa emerged from 21 years of isolation with a tour of India last November. As Gemini News Service reports, Kepler Wessels and his team may excel on the sun-bathed Caribbean pitches.

South Africa: The first test



Barbados

its history and in world cricket at the time, a lost generation of players has suddenly been overcome by the appearance of fine new talents.

And with hundreds of black teenagers threatening to emerge over the next few years as well as the addition of Indian and mixed-race stars, the future for South African cricket looks bright indeed.

The choice as captain of Wessels, a dour batsman who played 23 Tests for Australia as he sought his own career elsewhere in the early Eighties, has been inspired.

Making up for a lack of flair with tremendous grit and experience, he has rallied his men behind him and proved an astute tactician and a dignifled leader.

Whether he should have shouldered the burden is a moot point. The two conspicuous absentees from both the World Cup and touring squad, Clive Rice and Jimmy Cook,

will surely be missed. Cook is among the world's most accomplished opening batsmen and a great player of fast bowling while Rice is an inspirational leader and still a

in November 1991 and

reaching semi-final

formidable all-rounder.

participated in World Cup.

For all their vigour and enthusiasm. South Africa lacks depth - in the middle-order batting and in spin bowling and it is in the Test match in Barbados where these deficiencies are likely to be exposed.

Ironically, their strengths are in two departments in which the West Indies normally - top of the order batting and fast bowling. So it

could be quite a contest. In Cook's absence, Wessels has found the perfect opening partner in Andrew Hudson, whose upright-handed ortho doxy is the ideal foil for Wessels' own left-handed im-

provisation. Their undoubted star of the World Cup was Peter Kirsten, now 36, but as innovative and stylish as ever. Capable of taking any attack apart, the former Derbyshire player ought to score heavily on the wickets of the Caribbean.

Another former Derbyshire batsman, Adrian Kuiper, also possesses the power to decimate most bowling sides. It is the middle-order that

might be a little shaky. Hanse Cronje hardly proved himself in Australia and New Zealand while Jonty Rhodes, for all his phenomenal fielding and running between the wickets, has yet to convince as an international batsman. In this area South Africa could do with its legends of not-so-long ago.

The last time it played Test cricket was in 1969-70 when Bill Lawry's Australians were the visitors. With the likes of Eddie Barlow, Barry Richards, Mike Proctor and the Pollock brothers, the hosts won 4-0. with a 170-run margin the narrowest of the series.

The return was less auspicious - losing two out of three matches to the Indians last November and looking a little lost in the process.

With millions lining a flower-laden route from Calcutta airport to their hotel, a visit to Mother Theresa and 96,000 people crammed into Eden Gardens, they could be excused for that.

The welcome in the West Indies is not likely to be as overwhelming - on or off the field. The battery of fast bowlers is less formidable than for a decade, although Curtly Ambrose will be more difficult to handle when unfettered by one-day conditions.

More significantly, perhaps, in Alan Donald, South Africa has arguably the fastest bowler in the world

Known as "white lightning," Donald can be devastating and will have a capable sidekick in Meyrick Pringle. Richard Snell also has the pace to test the home batting.

Already township product Walter Masemola has been earmarked as a potential star paceman - in the west Indian mould.

With the confidence of a 64-run victory over the West Indies in the group games of the World Cup behind them, and the thanks of a people, as Steve Tweshete, the African National Congress sport representative put it, "for having saved the nation" by helping to win vital Yes votes in the recent referendum, Wessels and his men will not be as overawed as they were in India.

The chances are they will receive one or two encouraging telephone calls from President F W De Klerk and win or lose, their presence is likely to ensure the first profit of a domestic series in the Caribbean since Pakistan toured in 1976-77. Happily that is not the only reason the hosts are looking forward to their visit.

- Gemini News About the Author : Bob Holmes is a British sports journalist and writer.

Corrie van Zyl

PORT OF SPAIN, Apr 11 Seamer Meyrick Pringle was drafted into South Africa's team for the second one-day cricket international against West Indies today, reports

Pringle, who had figures of four for 11 in the World Cup match between the sides last month, replaced Corrie Van Zyl as the only change from the touring team's 107-run defeat in Jamaica on Tuesday.

The choice left batsman Mark Rushmere and bowler Tertuis Bosch, both yet to play a game on tour, with only Sunday's final 50-Over game at Queen's Park Oval in which to make an impression before next week's Test match in Barbados.

Visa scam leads to expulsion of Albanian paddlers

STUTTART, Germany, Apr 11: The Albanian team were disqualified from the European table tennis championships on Friday after the players failed to appear and German police seized their visas from a group of illegal Albanian immigrants, reports Reuter.

The organisers said the seven-member Albanian team had failed to show for the opening day of the championships when the men were scheduled to play Portugal and Ireland and the women were to face Norway and Israel. Their matches were

awarded to their opponents. Organisers said at first they heard the Albanians had been stuck in traffic in Austria and

did not know when they would arrive in Stuttgart. However, German border police said later that the play-

ers did not appear to have even set of on the trip to Germany. They said the players' visas

were found on a group of Albanians who were arrested at Stuttgart airport trying to enter the country illegally.

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Pringle replaces | COOB overwhelmed by numbers Nearly 19,000 athletes and



BARCELONA, Spain, Apr 11: International Olympic Committee (IOC) president

Juan Antonio Samaranch said on Friday officials were still grappling with the problem of chronic overcrowding at this Summer's Games in Barcelona. reports Reuter. "We and the Barcelona

Olympic Organising Committee (COOB) are highly concerned about the situation," he said after a meeting with COOB of-He said progress had been

Olympic Committees."

made to reduce numbers but added: "We will have to ask for collaboration from other

officials have already regis tered to attend the Olympics and with 31 countries yet to respond, organisers fear the final tally will be in the region of 20,000. "Everybody seems to want to come here," he said This is the price to be paid for the success of the Barcelona Games."

The IOC had originally fixed a maximum of 15,000 in dis cussions with COOB and the Olympic Village has been built to house that number. Samaranch suggested as a

partial solution staggering the arrival and departure of athletes and officials during the Games which run from July 25 to August 9.

But he added: "There will have to be a definite solution for the next Games (in the US city of Atlanta). There will have to be quotas for all sports.

Samaranch rejected growing local pressure for the au tonomous province of Catalonia, of which Barcelona is the capital, to have a higher profile at the Games. He said ample provision had already been made.

Catalan separatists, who doubled their support in regional elections last month. have threatened to disrupt the Games unless their athletes have their own strip and the Catalan anthem and flag are used at medal ceremonies.

Big blow to Berlin's 2000 bid



BONN, Apr 11: Berlin was warned on Friday that it should not expect financial backing from the

German government for its bid to stage the 2000 Olympic Games, reports Reuter. In a sign that government

support for the bid is flagging. Finance Minister Theo Waigel and Chancellor Helmut Kohl's spokesmen both said resources were urgently needed to rebuild former Communist East Germany. Spokesman Dieter Vogel

said Kohl had formally given his government's support for the reunited German capital's offer to host the Games in

This declaration, of course, still applies. It has never been changed or withdrawn," he told a news conference.

But he added: "There are financial aspects and these must be borne in mind. The government's financial position is such that all means possible from the budget must be spent on East Germany. It will certainly see the priority there." Waigel told the East

newspaper German

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Maerkische Oderzeitung that he had no money left in his budget for major projects. He was not opposed to the

2000 bid but "The Games could be just as thrilling in the capital in 2004," the newspaper quoted him as saying. On Wednesday, Waigel said

the government had to keep a tight rein on spending to curb spiralling debt.

Tough sacrifices would be necessary on all fronts to pay for economic recovery in East Germany and the postponement or cancellation of major projects such as the Olympics should be carefully considered. he added.

Waigel said the government hoped Berlin would attract sufficient private sponsorship to host the Games.

"If Berlin succeeds through financial contributions from private business... in roughly balancing income and expendi ture, then the application is of course entirely in order. The Finance Minister would certainly have no objections then.

The Berlin bid has been marred by mismanagement, poor promotion and a fraud scandal that led to the sacking

last September of its first campaign manager. Enthusiasm in the city itself

has been muted. Supporters say the Games would bolster Berlin's renais-

sance as united Germany's capital and a city of cosmopolitan culture, while opponents say the city should concentrate first on rebuilding its dilapidated East. Berlin has even had trouble

securing celebrity sponsors for its bid. Tennis star Boris Becker refused to help, contending that an Olympics in Berlin would rekindle German chauvinism.

Berlin's last Olympic Games in 1936 were turned into a propaganda extravaganza for Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler.

Milan, Manchester, Beijing, Brasilia, Istanbul, Tashkent and Sydney have also bid for the 2000 Olympics.

Draw for Olympic women's hockey

BRUSSEL, Apr [1: Defending champions Australia play Canada in the opening match of the women's Olympic hockey tournament in Barcelona in July, reports AFP.

FAB

Napoli eye Thern STOCKHOLM, Apr 11 Swedish international Jonas Thern is being offered 1.5 million dollars a year, two cars and a house to join Napoli this autumn, according to his cur-

rent club Benfica, reports AFP. But Benfica's incoming president, Jorge De Brito, also told the Swedish news agency TT that he wants to keep Thern — whose contract with the Portuguese champions expires in the summer.

Thern's agent Vincenzo Moabito did not comment on the details of Brito's claim, but he said: "One thing is for sure, Napoli have offered Thern a staggering contract".

FIFA likely to readmit South Africa aimed at ending apartheid. JOHANNESBURG



reports AP.

Apr 11: FIFA president Joao Havelange indicated Saturday that So-

uth Africa would be readmitted to international soccer's governing body,

FIFA expelled South Africa in 1976 because of apartheid, barring the country from international competition. "However, after 16 years

things have changed and South Africa can now come back to FIFA on condition that this country respects the FIFA statutes," Havelange said after arriving to evaluate reforms

The three-day visit follows recommendation last year by the Confederation of African Football that South Africa be readmitted.

"We read with great interest (the CAF's) favorable report and I wanted to personally pay my respects to South Africa before this country is readmitted," Havelange said. The FIFA Congress meets in

July in Zurich, Switzerland, and is expected to consider South Africa's readmission. It was not clear if South Africa could compete in the 1994 World Cup tournament even if it gained readmittance this

Soccer is the most popular sport among the nation's black majority, with professional and amateur matches drawing large crowds in black town-

FIFA general secretary Joseph Blatter and CAF treasurer Ismail Bhamjee, is scheduled to meet with officials of the South African Football Association, which comprises the nation's formerly segregated soccer organizations.

Havelange, accompanied by

He said FIFA would organize a development programme in South Africa if the nation gets read ted.

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52 CRYPTOQUIP

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YAISU PBFFBV. Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals W peeved

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it 51 Reunited will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short Eur. land words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to 53 Average locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.