

Bacher sees dawn of a new era

BRIDGETOWN, Apr 24 : South Africa's cricket tour of West Indies has been hailed as the dawn of a "new era" despite the team's extraordinary collapse in their first official Test match for 22 years, reports Reuter.

As the cricket world digested details of West Indies' 52-run win on Thursday in one of the most remarkable matches in modern times, Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said the tour would also be remembered as a critical moment in the republic's sporting history.

"The result to me was unimportant compared with the success of the tour as a whole," Bacher said before the South African team and youth squad flew home at the end of a trouble-free first-ever trip to the Caribbean.

"The vibes are very good. We have built bridges, brought cricketers together and forged very close links with the West Indies Board."

"It's created an unbelievable new era for South African cricket."

Even Bacher has admitted he did not know what sort of reception his team would receive before he stepped on to the tarmac in Jamaica at the start of the tour less than three weeks ago.

As it turned out, the only people to show hostility towards the South Africans were the West Indian fast bowlers on a worsening pitch in Barbados on Thursday.

In the space of 21.4 overs on the final morning, South Africa plunged from 122 for two to 148 all out to wreck any fond hopes of a triumphant initial return to the Test arena.

After the team's short visit to India last November and the World Cup in Australia, where they reached the semifinals, the South Africans' restoration to the cricketing fold is now complete.

Perhaps the biggest lesson their opponents have absorbed is that no sporting team from the republic should be underestimated.

South Africa lost all three one-day internationals in the Caribbean, had to face high-quality fast bowling in unfamiliar conditions and were tired after two months of constant travel and one-day cricket.

Yet they still came within an ace of beating West Indies on a ground where no visiting side had won since 1935 and proved unflinching popular tourists.

Plus marks included Andrew Hudson's epic Test debut innings of 163, the raw pace of Allan Donald, the field-

ing of Jonty Rhodes and the wicket-taking ability of Richard Snell, who equalled Ambrose's match haul of eight wickets.

Any minus points centred on the side's general inexperience in pressure situations which skipper Kepler Wessels hopes will be helped by the naming of a 16-man core squad for the incoming tour by India later this year.

"The biggest benefit of the tour has been the chance to see what standards we have to achieve," Wessels said.

The short tour could also prove significant for West Indies, trying to shape a new team following the retirements of Viv Richards, Malcolm Marshall, Gordon Greenidge and Jeff Dujon.

The Test win meant so much to experienced opener Desmond Haynes that he was moved to tears in the dressing-room after the players had performed the first home lap of honour anyone could re-



ALI BACHER had grabbed an Antigua flag to wave to the crowd. "I wanted to show the peo-

ple how united we are as a team," he said. "I love pressure. It makes me tough."

There are bound to be continued mutterings in Barbados following the successful boycott of the Test which was watched by less than seven thousand people over the entire five days.

A memorable match deserved better and West Indies manager David Holford said: "The South Africans outplayed us for three days. It's a pity it wasn't a three-Test series. I'm sure we would have had two more great matches."

The West Indies' success highlighted the fact that cricket is still the biggest single unifying force in the Caribbean.

Bacher believes the same is true in South Africa and is looking forward to welcoming the West Indies for a one-day tournament next February.

Beyond that, every cricket supporter in the world will be waiting for the day a South African "Ambrose" steps out of the townships into Test cricket.

If it happens before the end of the century, South Africa's Caribbean Odyssey will truly have been a success.

Marshall mauls Essex

LONDON Apr 24 : West Indies fast bowler Malcolm Marshall sent Essex tumbling to their second heavy Benson and Hedges Cup defeat in the space of 48 hours on Thursday, reports Reuter.

While his former Test teammates were recording a famous victory over South Africa in Barbados, Marshall led Hampshire to an easy 41-run success at Southampton with a vintage performance.

Marshall, who retired from Test cricket last month, grabbed three wickets in the space of 17 blistering new-ball deliveries — including England captain Graham Gooch for his second duck of the week.

Then he returned to end an Essex lightbulb by removing top scorer Nasser Hussain for 55 to finish with competition-best figures of four for 20.

After dismissing Hampshire for 177, Essex — dispatched for 61 by Lancashire on Tuesday — crashed out for 136.

Former West Indies captain Viv Richards hit the top score of 48 in Glamorgan's 155 for nine at Derby but opponents Derbyshire coasted home with four wickets and three overs to spare.

Nick Speak scored a personal Cup-best 64 as Lancashire beat Scotland by six wickets at Manchester.

The Scots made a great start, with Ian Philip (80) and Bruce Patterson (63) putting on 144 for the first wicket out of a total of 219 for five.

Gloucestershire eased to a

seven wickets win over the Minor Counties at Cheltenham. Part-timers Minor Counties made 212 for seven, but the hosts were never in trouble.



MALCOLM MARSHALL opener Dean Hodgson hitting a one-day best 103 not out, including 12 fours from 174 balls.

SCORE BOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the first-ever cricket Test between West Indies and South Africa on Thursday:

West Indies first innings 262 (K. Arthurton 59, D. Haynes 58, R. Snell four for 84)

South Africa first innings 345 (A. Hudson 163, K. Wessels 59, J. Adams four for 43)

West Indies second innings 283 (J. Adams 79 not out, B. Lara 64, R. Snell four for 74, A. Donald four for 77)

South Africa second innings (overnight 122 for two)

Rushmore b Ambrose	3
Hudson c Lara b Ambrose	0
Wessels c Lara b Walsh	74
Kirsten b Walsh	52
Cronje c Williams b Ambrose	2
Kulper c Williams b Walsh	0
Richardson c Williams b Ambrose	2
Snell c Adams b Walsh	0
Pringle b Ambrose	4
Bosch not out	0
Donald b Ambrose	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, nb-4)	11
Total	148

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-27; 3-123; 4-130; 5-131; 6-142; 7-142; 8-147; 9-148.

Bowling: O M R W
 Ambrose 24.4 7 34 6
 Patterson 7 1 26 0
 Benjamin 9 2 21 0
 Walsh 22 10 31 4
 Adams 5 0 16 0
 Simmons 5 1 13 0

Result: West Indies won by 5 2 runs.

Waseem Akram turns author

From M J Zahedi

KARACHI, Apr 24 : Pakistan's cricket all-rounder Waseem Akram has turned into an author. He has just returned from England after completing formalities for the launching of his book "Waseem, Waqar, the Inheritors of Imran".

He said the book would be launched on May 20 at Lord's in London before the first one-day international between England and Pakistan.

It may be recalled that Waseem Akram was named man-of-the-match in the recent World Cup final in Melbourne between Pakistan and England which the former won.

Waseem will be the third Pakistani cricketer to write books on the game.

A H Kardar, a former Test captain and now Pakistan's ambassador in Switzerland, and this year's World Cup winning captain Imran Khan, are the other two.

Wessels, Richardson both agree bowlers made the difference



KEPLER WESSELS

BRIDGETOWN, Apr 24 : South African cricket captain Kepler Wessels refused to blame the pitch and praised the West Indian fast bowlers after his side's sensational 52-run Test defeat on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Curly Ambrose, with six for 34, and Courtney Walsh, who took four for 31, were the two West Indian bowling heroes but Wessels also pinpointed his own side's poor bowling on Wednesday morning as a big factor in the result.

"We didn't bowl as well as we could have," admitted Wessels, recalling the crucial West Indian last-wicket stand of 62 between Jimmy Adams and Patrick Patterson.

"You can't bowl one good ball and then four bad ones."

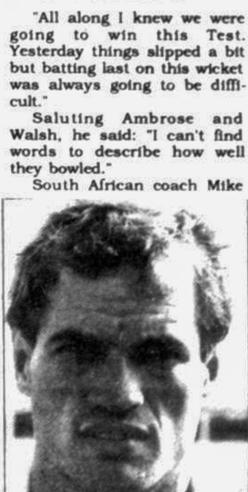
Wessels, who played 24 Tests for Australia before returning to his native South Africa, described his innings of 74 as one of the most difficult he had ever played.

West Indies captain Richie Richardson agreed that victory was the perfect answer to the criticism he and his side have had to endure since the recent World Cup.

"A lot of people have criticised us and many didn't come out to support us so I'm extremely happy," he said.

"All the criticism just makes me stronger and a lot more durable. I'm not going to quit. It's what happens in the end that counts."

Richardson also claimed he had never doubted West Indies would succeed, despite being outplayed for long periods of a memorable Test.



RICHIE RICHARDSON

Having watched his side crumble to 148 all out in pursuit of a victory target of 201, Wessels, who contributed exactly half his side's second innings runs, said:

"We lost the game. They didn't give up but I definitely thought we were going to win."

"I knew today would be difficult. When they get a whiff they bowl superbly. They gave us hardly any bad balls to hit."

Procter, who played in his country's last previous Test in 1970, said: "Perhaps our batting wasn't positive enough. It was a hammer blow losing Wessels when we did."

Senior batsman Peter Kirsten, who made 52, agreed that South Africa's bowling had been over-generous at times. "Perhaps we gave them 40 runs too many," he said.

Miandad didn't want captaincy

ISLAMABAD, Apr 24 : Pakistan cricket captain Javed Miandad said on Thursday he had taken the job for the England tour with great reluctance after Imran Khan pulled out, reports Reuter.

"I did not want the captaincy but the BCCP (Board for Control of Cricket in Pakistan) forced great pressure on me to do so," Miandad told reporters at a Lahore reception for Pakistan's victorious World Cup side.

Pakistan's most experienced and prolific batsman said he would be happy to give up the job if Imran recovered from a shoulder injury and made himself available, the officials APP news agency reported.

Miandad said he had no doubt the long five-Test tour of England would be tough.

But paceman Waqar Younis, who missed the recent World Cup in Australia and New Zealand because of a stress fracture in his back, should be fit for the first Test at Edgbaston on June 4, Miandad said.

Damiani knocks out Greer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J., Apr 24 : Francesco Damiani knocked Michael Greer through the ropes midway through the first round and then knocked him out just before the bell in an abbreviated 10-round heavyweight bout, reports AP.

Wednesday night's fight was part of the undercard for the Steve Collins-Reggie Johnson middleweight crown at the Meadowlands Arena, where championship boxing returned for the first time since 1983.

The 241-pound (109-kilogram) Italian dominated Greer, 207 pounds (94 kilograms), landing punches with both hands and scoring his first knockdown about two minutes into the round. He used a hard right hook that sent Greer of Memphis, Tenn, through the ropes and left him hanging on the edge of the apron.

Greer managed to get back into the ring, but he was trapped in an adjacent corner and pummeled by Damiani. This time, Greer fell face first into the canvas. He was counted out struggling to his feet. The time was 3:00 of the round.

The knockout was the 24th for Damiani, 29-1. His only loss was by knockout to Ray Mercer, Greer is 21-13-3.

Damiani, who had to withdraw from a title fight against Evander Holyfield in November because of an ankle injury, said he hoped to fight in June but he did not know against whom.

"For sure it will be against an opponent tougher than this," Damiani said through an interpreter.

In two other bouts involving well-known boxers, heavyweight Tony Tucker stopped Manny Jesus Contreras at 1:27 of the sixth round and Shamba Mitchell scored a unanimous decision over former featherweight champion Rocky Lockridge in a lightweight fight.

Tucker, 238 1/2 pounds (108 kilograms), of Las Vegas, knocked down Contreras of Coventry, R.I. in the first round and kept up the pressure until referee Tony Orlando stopped the fight. The win raised Tucker's record to 44-1 with 36 KOs. Contreras, 215 pounds (97 kilograms), fell to 9-2-1.

"I think I fought well tonight," Tucker said. "I was in good shape and I was really looking to get in some rounds because I want the work."

Mitchell of Tacoma Park, Md. was just too young, too fast

and too good for Lockridge of Tacoma, Wash, in raising his record to 28-0. There were 11 knockdowns.

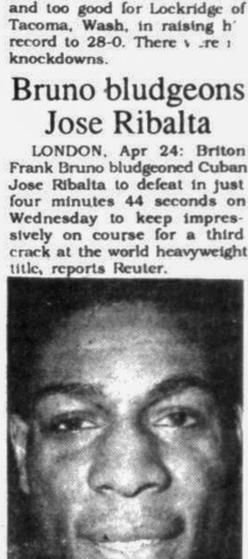
Bruno bludgeons Jose Ribalta

LONDON, Apr 24 : Briton Frank Bruno bludgeoned Cuban Jose Ribalta to defeat in just four minutes 44 seconds on Wednesday to keep impressively on course for a third crack at the world heavyweight title, reports Reuter.

The tall Cuban was on the canvas for almost as long as the fight lasted after taking two massive rights from Bruno which knocked him senseless.

The victor received a deserved and lengthy acclaim from a disappointing crowd, but Ribalta hardly threw a punch in anger during the brief proceedings.

Promoter Mickey Duff can now move ahead with plans for a world title eliminator against South Africa's Pierre Coetzee in the autumn and then a possible showdown with champion Evander Holyfield early next year.



BRUNO BLUDGEONS

ICC referees

LONDON, Apr 24 : Australian Bob Cowper and West Indian Clyde Walcott have been appointed by the International Cricket Conference to Referee this summer's Test series between England and Pakistan, reports Reuter.

Former Australian Test batsman Cowper, will officiate at the first two Tests at Edgbaston and Lord's and West Indies Board chairman Clyde Walcott at the remaining three at Old Trafford, headingly and the Oval.

Tszyu to fight Jones

SYDNEY, Apr 24 : Former world amateur light-welterweight champion Kostya Tszyu of Russia will fight Australian Tony Jones in a 10-round non-title bout May 7, promoter Bill Mordey announced Thursday.

Sydney-based Tszyu has a 2-0 record as a professional and has won both his bouts inside two rounds. Mordey has predicted he will win a world title with 12 months.

Jones, a former world Boxing Council "International" champion, has an 18-6 record.

The contest will be held at the Darling Harbour Convention Center in downtown Sydney.

Mordey also said he had concluded negotiations with French promoter Jean-Christophe Correges for the Jeff Harding-Christophe Tiozzo WBC light-heavyweight title bout to be rescheduled in Marseilles on June 5.

Fake steroids still tempt them

WASHINGTON, Apr 24 : Steroid substitutes are tempting athletes and worrying experts, who say the dietary supplements haven't been shown to build muscle and may make the users sick, reports AP.

The ingredients range from minerals and plant extracts to ground animal organs.

"The thought out there is that it's not steroids, so it must be safe, and I'm not doing anything immoral and dishonest," said Charles E. Yesalis, a steroid researcher at Pennsylvania State University. "People are going to libraries and finding out about these things."

"These guys talk like pharmacists until you ask them a few questions that show they

don't know what they're talking about," said Karl E. Friedl, a research physiologist at the US Army Occupational Health and Performance Directorate in Natick, Mass.

"There's some nasty-looking stuff out there, and these guys will pop anything if they think it'll make them strong."

Athletes wrongly assume that, because the products are sold in health food stores, the Food and Drug Administration has checked them out, Friedl said.

The agency has alerted its field offices to rein in the claims made for the steroid alternatives, and could forbid sale or distribution of products found to be harmful, said FDA spokesman Mike Shaffer. Among the products are ground animal testes, the or-

gans that produce testosterone, the male hormone that spurs muscle growth, steroids are chemically produced forms of testosterone.

Athletes cat them on "The theory that, if you went more of what testes make, you eat testes," Friedl and his colleagues said in an article in the National Strength and Conditioning Association Journal.

"This unappetizing notion simply doesn't wash," the article said. For one thing, testes hold relatively little testosterone for another, the liver would clear out an ingested excess, it said.

"At worst, it may cause indigestion and will waste money," said the report.

Athletes may also try to force their bodies to produce steroids by ingesting certain

desert plants or their extracts, because laboratories use these plants to make steroids. However, the body does not synthesize steroids like a lab does, Friedl said.

Extracts are being sold under such names as diogenin, the journal article says. The FDA says consumers should not buy diogenin.

The plants a gave and klengrass, which are sources of diogenin, have been shown to cause liver damage in sheep and may be toxic in humans, Friedl said.

One of the most widely used products is chromium picolinate, said an article in a medical magazine. The physician and Sportsmedicine. But it quotes one researcher as saying there is no evidence that the mineral builds strength.

Konishiki applies for Japanese citizenship

TOKYO, Apr 24 : Konishiki, the massive American sumo wrestler at the center of a debate over whether racism has blocked his promotion to the sport's highest rank, is applying for Japanese citizenship, officials said Friday, reports AP.

Yukinari Yamano of the Justice Ministry's naturalization division said Konishiki, whose real name is Salevan Atisanoc, picked up naturalization forms Thursday.

Earlier this week, the nation's leading financial newspaper, The Nihon Keizai, caused a stir when it quoted Konishiki, a 28-year-old from Hawaii, as saying his failure to win promotion after winning his third tournament was due to racism because he's not Japanese.

The 577-pound (262-kilogram) wrestler denied Thursday that he had complained of racial discrimination and tearfully apologized to the Sumo Association.

Applicants for naturalization, a procedure which takes at least a year, are usually required to take Japanese names and display a sufficiently Japanese lifestyle to qualify for citizenship.

Local newspapers, meanwhile, expressed alarm that Japan would again be criticized

as unfair and closed to outsiders as a result of overseas news coverage of the racism issue. But some newspapers acknowledged that anti-foreign sentiment existed in the conservative sumo world.

The national Asahi newspaper said Friday that Konishiki was wrestling Japanese culture and said the exclusion of foreigners from the top rank "Yokozuna" or grand champion, was unfair.

In an editorial, it said re-

cent statements by Noboru Kojima, a member of sumo's 13-member Yokozuna Selection Committee, were racially discriminatory. Kojima has said that "dignity," not just athletic performance, is necessary to become grand champion, and that such dignity was difficult for foreigners to achieve.

Konishiki, which means "little brocade," has reached sumo's second-highest rank. The Sumo Association says

candidates for the highest rank must win two tournaments in a row or amass "an equivalent record." Although Konishiki has won three tournaments, they were not sequential.

The Nihon Keizai expressed hope Friday that Konishiki would win next month's tournament because "that would settle everything."

It is widely believed that another win will ensure Konishiki's promotion to the top rank.

The controversy has reached the top levels of government. On Thursday, several government officials said they believed no racism was involved in sumo promotions.

The Sumo Association, which has a reputation for exclusiveness, has declined to comment.

Sumo is one of the most rigidly defined and hierarchical communities left in Japan. Wrestlers wear topknots and loincloths and perform a series of rituals before each match. Novices must wait hand and foot on higher-ranked wrestlers.

Sumo officials have previously criticized Konishiki for clinching his fist after victories, staring down opponents, and other behaviour they deemed inappropriate for the sport.



Sumo champion Konishiki with his newly-married wife Sumiko Shioda

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	43 Coagulate	3 Pulp fruit	Bordeaux wine
1 Spinner	44 River in Wales	4 Caustic remark	25 Flog
4 Turf squares	46 Peasants in India	5 Spanish gold	26 Equation phrase
8 Ashen	50 Rural nightclub	6 Genetic substance	27 — the scenery (overact)
12 Pub pint	55 Tourist's guide	7 Fountain fare	28 Quantity of paper
13 Cartoonist Peter	56 Jai —	8 Canvassed public opinion	29 Make eyes at
14 October birthstone	57 TV's Norman	9 GI's address	30 Turkish VIPs
15 Health resort	58 Slender finial	10 Fond du —	31 — estate
16 Police obstruction	59 Long lunch?	11 Lodge member	35 Ones who worship
18 Pinnacle of glacier ice	60 European mountains	17 Ending for cross or crow	38 Artist's bailiwick
20 Indian mulberry	61 Dog-catcher's need?	19 Amper-sand	40 Farm pen
21 Distrained: Old Eng. law	DOWN	22 Biblical name	42 Hardwood tree
24 Memento	1 Soviet news agency	23 Red	45 Soviet peninsula
28 Sporty car	2 Leather oil flask		47 Portent
32 Track event			48 It might be red
33 Breakfast standby			49 Rod for roasting meat
34 Mythical sorceress			50 Fan's shout
36 Fr. holy woman			51 50 Down, in Barcelona
37 " — I poor Yorick"			52 Swiss river
39 Performance given on tour			53 Biblical name
41 Famous hostess			54 Weaken gradually

Solution time: 28 mins.

AMUR RUIN LOB
 WIRE ALTO AGE
 LANDOFNOO NRA
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 TOLER PLUS
 EBAN SILENCER
 EON SOLOS AVE
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 SODS EVENT
 SALUD SIRE
 AMI LANDGRAVE
 ROD EBOE SLAW
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56						57				58
59						60				61

CRYPTOQUIP

RC H U S D F F K D O D E M E -
 R U L M C L W U T C L D R C L , K C B
 O S C B A W H U T U L R D M E D H C B R
 T B L R D M E O .

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals N

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