

Venue shifts from MCG to Lord's

LONDON, May 19: Pakistan's World Cup-winning team of all the talents can reinforce their one-day superiority over Graham Gooch's England cricketers this week in a fascinating prelude to the season's main act, reports Reuter.

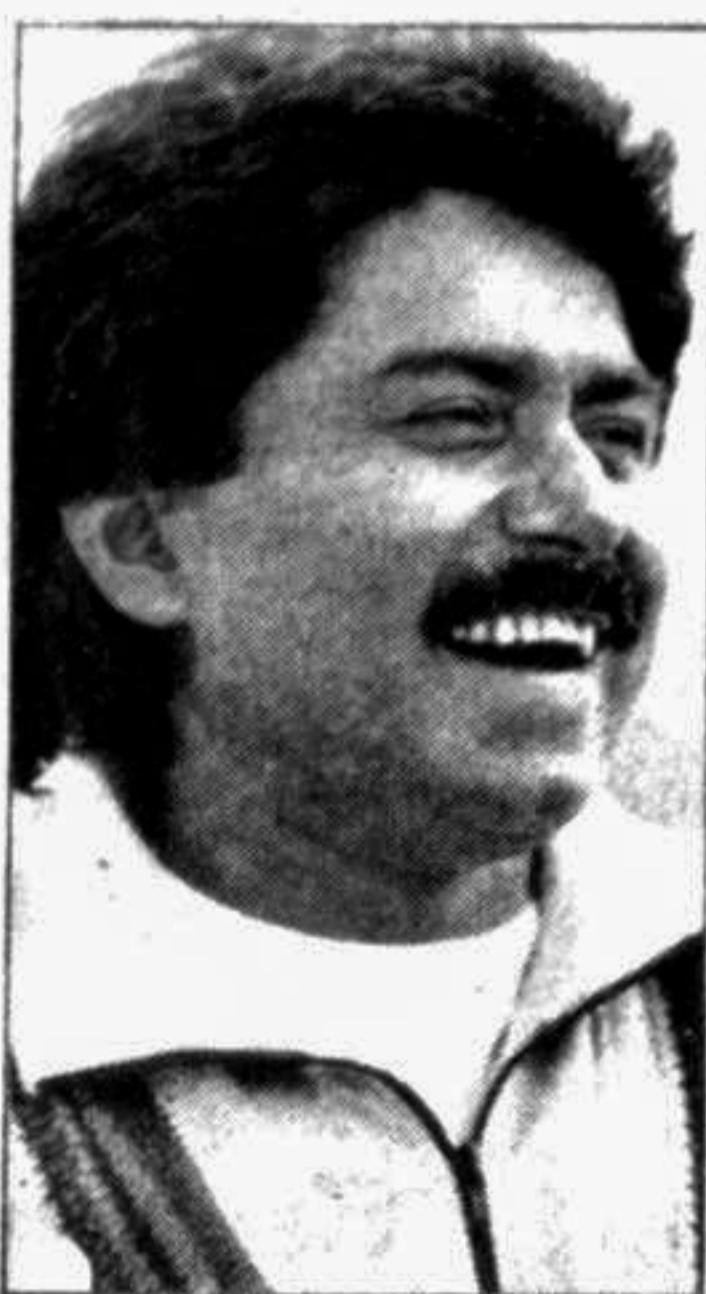
The cast for two limited overs internationals at Lord's on Wednesday and the oval on Friday, is almost unchanged from the showpiece World Cup final in Melbourne eight weeks ago when Pakistan beat England by 22 runs.

Pakistan's charismatic captain on that emotion-charged occasion, Imran Khan, is missing after a shoulder injury ruled him out of the four-month England tour but the nucleus of his triumphant team are here, in form and in the mood to torment Gooch's side again.

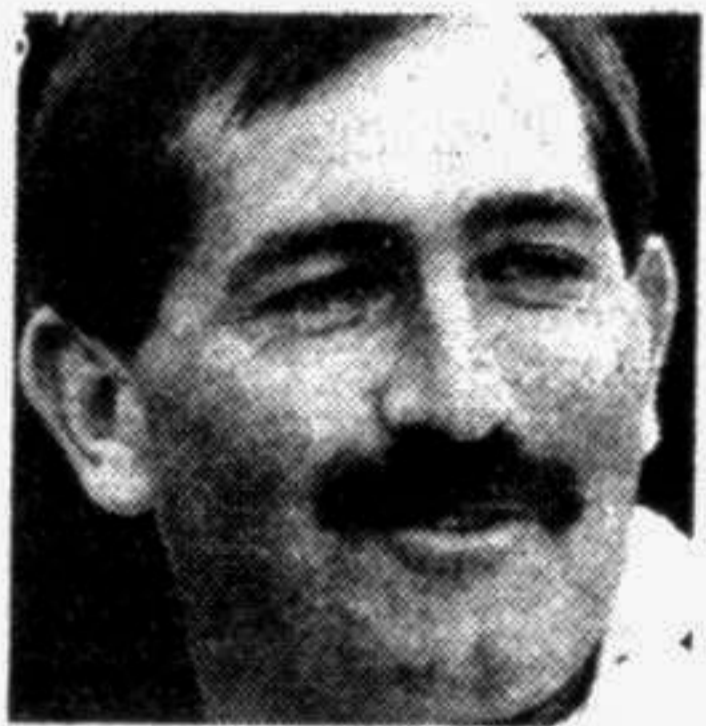
Javed Miandad leads Pakistan this time, ensuring no loss of experience at the helm, but offering a wily and combative contrast to the inspirational Imran whose tactical awareness and stabilising influence have secured some of his country's most significant achievements.

Pakistan's wealth of batting has been enriched by the consistently fine form of Salim Malik, who endured a wretched run of low scores during the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Malik has thrived on his return to English conditions — he scored almost 2,000 first-class runs for Essex last season — and Gooch's team may feel the weight of his bat even



JAVED MIANDAD



GRAHAM GOOCH

more than those of the World Cup heroes.

Rameez Raja and Aamir Sohail can give a perfectly-paced start to the innings, allowing the fluent strokeplay of Miandad, Malik and the exci-

ing Inzamamul Haq, making his first tour of England, to take full toll.

Even without their main strike bowler, Waqar Younis, who is nursing a stress fracture of the back, Pakistan have an incisive new-ball pairing in Wasim Akram and Aaqib Javed, with Mushtaq Ahmed's leg-spin an equally potent weapon against opponents who showed their vulnerability in the World Cup.

Graeme Hick was foremost among them, the Zimbabwe-born batsman now facing a trial by wrist spin while still seeking to establish his England place after an unconvincing first 12 months at Test level.

Hick is among the 13-strong squad's seven specialist batsmen, one of whom is sure to be omitted to allow the four pace-bowling all-rounders — Chris Lewis, Ian Botham, Phillip DeFreitas and Derek Pringle — to form the basis of the attack with left arm spinner Richard Illingworth.

Mark Ramprakash, recalled after being omitted from the World Cup, may be the unlucky batsman, for the opening 55 overs game at least.

He would add vitality to the fielding that was missing in the World Cup final, but England are more likely to keep faith for the time being with the five batsmen who played in Melbourne and add Robin Smith, whom they left out on that occasion.

The one-day internationals this week are the first of five, the rest to be played in August after the five-Test series which forms the centrepiece of the season.

Notts go to top of county table

LONDON, May 19: Nottinghamshire jumped to the top of the English county championship after scrambling their way to a three-wicket win over Northamptonshire on Monday, reports Reuter.

Their first championship victory at the county ground, Northampton, since 1966 had looked a formality when they resumed at 146 for two needing a further 91 runs.

But Northamptonshire pacemen Paul Taylor and Curtly Ambrose left them reeling at 219 for seven, with 18 runs still required and broken finger victim Paul Pollard one of the two men left to come in.

The experience of Eddie Hemmings and Bruce French eventually settled the issue, Notts scraping home on 237 for seven after a hectic 90 minutes play.

Paul Johnson, 77 overnight, reached 95 before edging a pull off Taylor to wicketkeeper David Ripley. He batted 156 minutes and hit 14 fours.

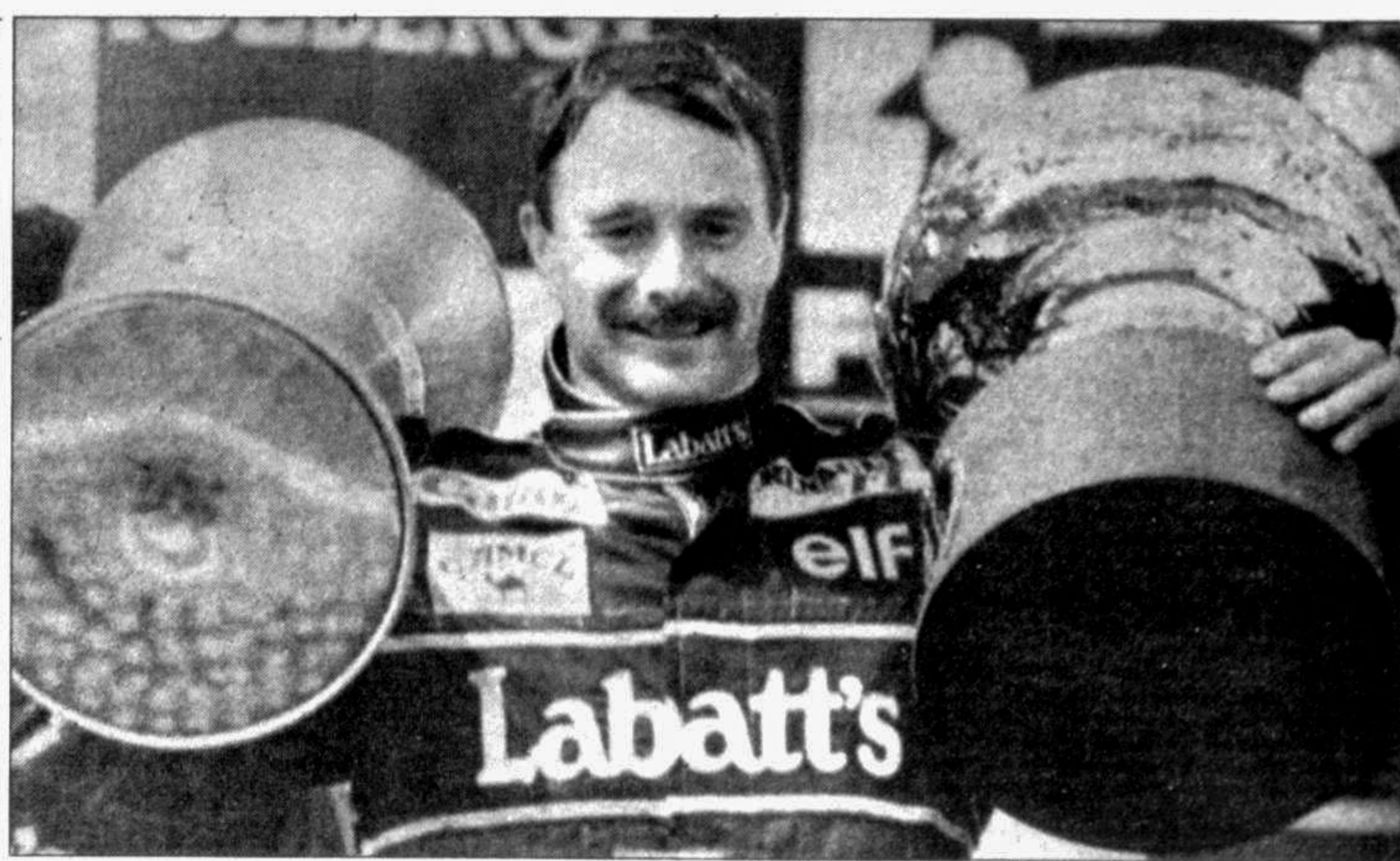
Taylor finished with four for 76.

Asafuddowla honoured

Sports Reporter

Asafuddowla, president of the Bangladesh Swimming Federation was awarded a gold medal by the Asian Swimming Federation on April 24 as a mark of recognition for his outstanding contribution in the field of the natant sport.

The medal will be officially presented to him some time during the next Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan in 1994.



Williams-Renault driver Nigel Mansell of Great Britain holds the trophies after winning the San Marino Grand Prix in Italy on May 17. Mansell led the race from start to finish to become the first formula one driver to win the opening five races of the season.

Violence in rugby on the rise



BRISBANE, May 19: As satellite television brings rugby league worldwide popularity, some in the traditional rugby stronghold are worried on the field violence could cause serious injuries, reports AP.

Two players were carried from the field unconscious during the first New South Wales-Queensland State-of-Origin match in Sydney earlier this month. Three others suffered minor concussions.

"Someone will get killed if this does not stop," said New South Wales hooker Benny Elias, who left the field after the first State-of-Origin match with his face covered in blood.

"War was always a cliché used to describe these games — but now your body is really on the line."

Some fear players could seek retribution in the second match of the series, scheduled for Brisbane on Wednesday night.

In successive weekends, players in the Winfield Cup club competition have suffered serious injuries after begin tackled around the head.

Balmain center Ian McCan needed more than 70 stitches after receiving facial injuries in a tackle, while Eastern Suburbs fullback Rod Silva suffered a fractured jaw.

"It's like American football without the pads," said Elias. "Players launch themselves like they do in gridiron, but you don't get a rest the way they (American footballers) do."

The game is played at such incredible speed and the players are so big. It's a dangerous mix," he said.

The ferocity of the State-of-Origin games has been fuelled by decades of media hype. The games are always sellouts, with crowds attracted by the gladiatorial aspects of the contests — but media commentators say the violence has gone too far.

Television games attract the highest television ratings of any program in Australia's eastern states and New Zealand. The game also is tra-

ditionally popular in Britain, France and Papua New Guinea. Satellite television, particularly in Europe, has seen the sport's profile increase in countries where it is not even played.

The professional rugby code has launched new competition in Russia, South Africa and Fiji over the past year.

Some officials, like Queensland coach Graham Lowe, have played down the violence in the first Queensland-New South Wales game.

"All this talk about brutality

Queensland scrum half Allan Langer, one of the smallest players in rugby league, says tackles targeting the heads of rival players are clearly dangerous.

"If someone launches a well-timed head shot there is little a player can do to protect himself," Langer said.

"It is up to the referees and the judiciary to stamp it out."

Four players in the past week have been suspended for four weeks for tackles that were ruled dangerous, but Queensland rugby league doctor Keith Woodhead believes a

gang tackling. Another coach, Tim Sheens, has said the season should be reduced because players are physically unable to cope with up to 30 games per season.

The soul-searching will continue until a solution is found.

Stadium safety rules ignored in France

PARIS, May 19: Stadium disasters like that in Corsica which killed 14 people and injured more than 500 could happen all over France; a former Sports Minister said on Tuesday, reports AFP.

On the day that the French government outlined a new law to improve spectator safety, Roger Bambuck said the necessary legislation already exists. "It just is not applied," he told the sports daily L'Equipe in an interview.

"Go to stadiums which draw the public. Sometimes they have to pray to God that there is not a fire," added Bambuck, who was Sports Minister in the socialist government upto 1991.

He said "frightening" safety standards were found not applied by an inquiry he had ordered.

The new Sports Minister Frederique Bredin called for a ban on alcohol sales and on drunken people entering stadiums. She has to quickly draw up legislation following nationwide outrage over the Furlan disaster two weeks ago.

A temporary stand collapsed minutes before the start of the Bastia-Olympique Marseille French Cup semifinal. A report said the construction was badly constructed and several football federation and local government officials have been charged with manslaughter or negligence.

"Sport is meant to be a festival, she told the National Assembly. "But in Corsica it became a drama. A series of unprecedented mistakes has left the country in mourning."

Challenging task ahead of Miandad's men

A M Chowdhury

Pakistan, the world champions, are now in England on a nearly four months' tour during which they will play five Texaco Trophy one-day matches and five Tests. Soon after their triumphant return from Down Under, the world champions are out to defend their position in one-day cricket and the task assumes added significance since their opponents will be the same team whom they beat so convincingly at the MCG not too long ago.

This year the Test and County Board of England has scheduled five one-dayers, instead of the usual three, and that, too, not in one go. Two matches will be played on the 20th and 22nd May at the Lord's and the Oval respectively. Then the tourists shall have to put themselves into a different modulation and play the five Tests, the first of which starts at Edgbaston on June 4. After finishing the Test series on August 11 at the Oval, they will be back to one-day 'mood' and play the remainder three of the Texaco Trophy matches on the 20th, 22nd and 24th August at Trent Bridge, Lord's and Old Trafford respectively. I wonder if this sort of arrangement is at all suitable for the tourists; the switching over to different formats may not be an easy task and may pose problems for a few.

The Pakistan team without their charismatic leader Imran Khan, who opted out of the tour because of a shoulder injury, appears to be a happy blend of youth and experience and very rich in talents. Javed Miandad, the new skipper, has a most challenging series ahead of him; the team's spirit and confidence being at their best is definitely a plus point for him, but at the same time the onus of defending the position earned just two months earlier would always be haunting him. However, Miandad must have found it heartening to find his deputy, Salim Malik, getting back to his own self, as if he picked up his English bat from where he had left it last summer when he topped the county table with 28 runs short of 2000 for Essex.

Javed Miandad, the second highest run-getter in one-day cricket (his aggregate stands at 6455 at an average of 43.91

with 7 centuries and 45 fifties), and Salim Malik are going to provide the backbone of Pakistan's batting strength. The good form of Aamir Sohail, who has already scored two centuries, and Rameez Raja, with one century to his credit,

the World Cup without his services.

In the absence of Waqar Younis the brunt of the bowling shall have to be borne by Wasim Akram, who had a big hand in Pakistan's World Cup victory, and Aaqib Javed.

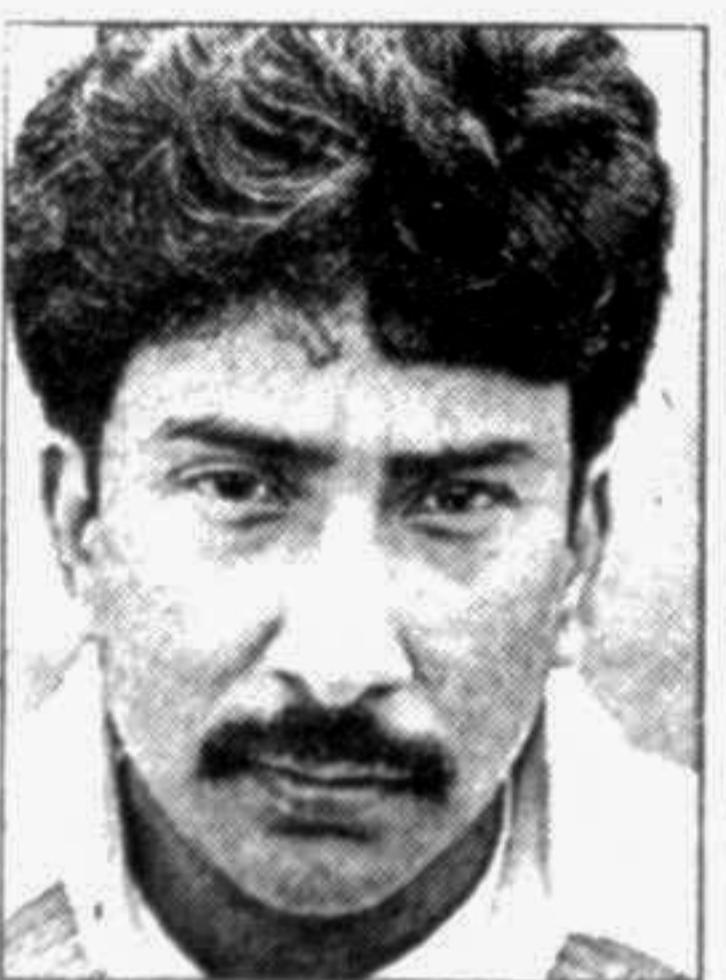
ure of 4 for 45. Chris Lewis (4 for 103 in 2 matches), Richard Illingworth (3 for 115 in 3), Phillip DeFreitas (3 for 98 in 3) and Derek Pringle (2 for 150 in 3) — all contributed to the 3-0 victory against the Caribbeans, who did have the services of 'King' Richards.

Among the English batsmen, Graeme Hick (av. 64.50 in 3 matches), Neil Firth (av. 61.00 in 3) and Allan Lamb (av. 40.00 in 2) did well to make a clean sweep of the three-match series. But the hero of last season was Mike Atherton, who averaged 84.00, and it is unfortunate for England that he is still out of action due to injury. Robin Smith, who missed the one-dayers last summer, will be an able replacement. The Englishmen, on their own soil, are always a tough proposition for any touring side, and the present world rulers are not going to find it easy either. On their last tour in 1987 they lost 1-2 in the Texaco Trophy matches.

But considering all odds, I would put my money on the World Champions in this year's five-match Texaco Trophy series. With high morale and confidence to back them up, with talent and potential to serve them and the experience and ability to improvise of a few of the veterans, there is no reason why they should not win the trophy. Of course, they will be without the commanding leadership of Imran Khan, and one hopes that does not create any disarray in the team. Quite a good deal will depend on Javed Miandad's handling of the team, specially his young talents — Inzamamul Haq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Asif Mujtaba and Aaqib Javed who need to be nursed and boosted so that they perform to their potential and promise. This is a job in which Imran Khan had his own style and how he excelled.

Pakistan's performance so far on the tour has been quite good. Though they lost their opening three-day match against Worcestershire, they won their next two against Glamorgan and Somerset, besides winning the initial two one-day matches.

Thus it will be quite legitimate to think that Pakistan's supremacy in one-day cricket is not going to be shattered so soon after attaining it. They should be able to run on the momentum gained as a result of their success in the World Cup for quite some time yet.



Salim Malik (L) and Wasim Akram - key men



is a pleasant thought for Miandad, Inzamamul Haq, the batting sensation of the World Cup, appears to have found his rhythm with a spectacular knock against Sussex. He possesses the quality which is bound to flourish; may be he will need a little time to settle down to the English conditions. Inzamam, yet to play a Test match, has an aggregate of 551 in 15 matches at an average of 39.35 with 2 centuries and two fifties.

Asif Mujtaba, sidelined for long, has already shown his potential as a promising all-rounder, and if he recovers from his injury, he will be an asset. Sohab Mohammad, not really suitable for the one-day game, may find a place for himself in the first eleven in case Asif Mujtaba does not recover, or even if he does, he may come in as an extra batsman. With Wasim Akram and Moin Khan to follow, the Pakistan batting has a solidity which the English attack may find difficult to break through even under home conditions.

It is now almost certain that Pakistan will be missing the services of Waqar Younis, who took 103 wickets in his first appearance in the English county cricket last summer, for the opening one-dayers. It is expected, as the latest report says, that he will be fit to play the third Test match starting on July 2. But one should remember, Pakistan did win

Miandad must be feeling happy that both are among the wickets in the preliminary matches. Who will be the third pace bowler? Any one of the three — Salim Jafar, Naveed Anjum or Tanveer Mehd — would fill in the gap, but would obviously be a poor replacement for the ace Waqar. On the Lord's and Oval wickets and, for that matter, at Old Trafford, Pakistan's trump card will be Mushtaq Ahmed and if the sun shines and dry conditions prevail allowing little bounce and pace he could be Pakistan's match winner. It will also depend how judiciously he is used by his skipper. Imran Khan did an admirable job in using him in the World Cup matches in which he took 16 wickets in 9 games at an average of 19.43, an excellent performance for a leg-spinner.

England is going to rely mainly on the World Cup squad with the omission of Dermot Reeve, who is being replaced by Mark Ramprakash, who has been in very good form in recent matches and his inclusion will probably bring in perfect technique in the batting lineup.

In English conditions, Ian Botham, Derek Pringle, Phillip DeFreitas and Chris Lewis are going to be different propositions. Last year against the West Indies Ian Botham played in only one Texaco match and returned a match-winning fig-

Getting to play for Tasmania

HOBART, Australia, May 19: Former England Test cricket captain Mike Gatting has been targeted by Australian state Tasmania to play for them in the next Sheffield Shield season, a newspaper reported here Tuesday, reports AFP.

Contingent on Gatting coming to the island state would be the pending decision on the lifting of an international ban imposed on him for leading an unofficial England tour of South Africa, the Australian newspaper said.

The Tasmanian Cricket Association has engaged former Lancashire and Tasmanian spinner Jack Simmons to



MIKE GATTING

act as their intermediary in talks with the 34-year-old Middlesex captain.

The move for Gatting follows Monday's announced retirement of former Test fast bowler Dave Gilbert because of continuing back trouble.

Gilbert has endorsed Tasmania's interest in Gatting, telling the newspaper "Mike would have a lot to offer Tasmania."

Last year we really missed out by not having a senior batsman in our side after Dirk Wellham went to Queensland."

Tasmania's leading batsman, David Boon, is often away on Test duty with Australia, hence the need for a player of Gatting's experience.

WTA's top money winners

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, May 19: Leading money winners this year on the women's tennis circuit, according to figures issued on Monday by the Women's Tennis Association, reports Reuter.

- 1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia) 573,164
2. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) 554,953
3. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain) 501,888
4. Steffi Graf (Germany) 378,150
5. Mary Joe Fernandez (US) 275,546
6. Conchita Martinez (Spain) 181,033
7. Martina Navratilova (US) 174,675

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 One thousand bucks, 6 Inn, 11 Quake, 12 Concord, 14 Edj, 15 Papal representative, 16 Wolfed down, 17 Crew, 19 Lawyer, 22 Obsolete, 23 Fencing sword, 24 Les femmes, 26 Accountant's stack, 28 Staff, 30 Le Coq, 31 One with a sales pitch, 35 Flower part, 39 Tress, 40 Get pugilistic, 42 Movie, 43 Spoon-bender, 44 In a stupor, 46 Love-seat fill, 47 Im-presses deeply, 49 'Ball Four' author, 51 She wanted to get a head in the world, 52 Queen of whodunits, 53 'Webster' star, 54 Musical, 43 Spoon-bender, 44 In a stupor, 46 Love-seat fill, 47 Im-presses deeply, 49 'Ball Four' author, 51 She wanted to get a head in the world, 52 Queen of whodunits, 53 'Webster' star, 54 Musical.

Solution time: 28 mins.
AVILA ODE TON
DATED WORKOUT
HEIFER OLGA
IWO OIL SWEEP
DAUB FLOAT
INTUIT BLOWER
STYNE WANE
SECTS OSA LOX
ORAL TREBEK
WIPEOUT ACORN
ECO PRO SHUTE
DAN ANN HOTEL

CROSSWORD grid with numbers 1-54 indicating starting positions for words.

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle: C S I Z P X A V Z X E Z V A I I AU X E Z X C F Y A F X M C F Z G U M Y X A G L V S X C R M I Y M F F Z P. Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals B. 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.