

Waqar, Akram do it yet again

LONDON, Aug 23: The world's top fast bowling pair of Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram bowled Pakistan to a thrilling three-run win over England in their fourth limited overs international at Lord's today, reports Reuter.

Defending a meagre total of 204 for five acquired amidst the showers on Saturday, Pakistan made England's batsmen fight for runs before the pace pair returned to deliver the coup de grace.

From a seemingly winning position of 172 for five, England were tumbled out for 201, the final four wickets being shared by Waqar and Akram in the space of 10 runs.

Although World Cup champions Pakistan have already surrendered the series by losing the opening three matches, they regained their pride with a fine bowling display in the much-improved batting conditions when play resumed today.

A disciplined half-century by veteran batsman Allan Lamb and a gutsy international debut 25 from wicketkeeper Richard Blakey had earlier appeared to put England well on the road to victory.

Tight bowling and eager fielding by the Pakistanis finally and excitingly turned the tide.

In total contrast to their record-breaking 363 for seven and comprehensive 198-run victory on Thursday, England found runs hard to come by when they resumed at 13 for one and with 48 of their 50 overs remaining.

Ian Botham, who began on Saturday by crashing the first three balls from Akram flamboyantly to the cover boundary, was far more circumspect.

Paceman Aaqib Javed struck the first blow having Robin Smith caught behind by Moin Khan for four but even though Neil Fairbrother fell to the same bowlers after a rapid 33, England still looked to be comfortably placed at 72 for three.

Botham contained his natural aggression for most of the morning, but after reaching a resolute 40 finally lost patience, charged down the wicket to occasional left-arm spinner Amir Sohail and was stumped.

Faint alarm bells began ringing when Graeme Hick dragged a ball from Sohail onto his stumps, but Lamb and Blakey batted sensibly.

They had taken the score to 172 for five before Lamb, who, with his international future under threat, had batted very responsibly for his 55, was finally undone by wrist spinner Mushtaq Ahmed.

The return of Akram and Waqar for the final overs brought about England's collapse.

Waqar bowled Blakey for 25, Akram quickly joined in by removing Chris Lewis and Phil DeFretas before Waqar wrapped up the innings by comprehensively bowling last man Richard Illingworth.

Waqar ended with three for 36, Akram two for 41, while



Pakistan opener Rameez Raja in action against England in the fourth Texaco Trophy one-dayer at Lord's on Saturday. Raja was later caught at mid-on by Stewart off Botham for 230.

Aaqib and Sohail each took two wickets in support.

An earlier Reuter report said: Five minutes of Ian Botham magic shone out like a beacon at gloomy Lord's today as rain and bad light ruined the fourth one-day international between England and



WAQAR... 3 for 36

Botham resumes on 14 on Sunday, having faced just five balls in an explosive start to England's reply to Pakistan's 204 for five in a match reduced to 50 overs per side.

But Alec Stewart, captaining England in the absence through injury of Graham Gooch, was lbw to Waqar Younis for a duck to leave England on 15 for one from two overs before bad light finally ended play for the day.

Robin Smith, the other not out batsman, had still to get off the mark.

At least Botham gave the

frustrated 28,000 capacity crowd something to remember when he strode out to open the England innings in place of Gooch, who pulled out at the last minute with a cyst on his right wrist.

Botham crashed his first ball from Wasim Akram

through extra cover with tremendous force, and the second went in the same place, even though not quite so well timed.

Suddenly the crowd, and the game, was alive — and Botham brought them to their feet by square driving Akram's third ball for another boundary.

It took just a split second to hit the advertising hoardings and was yet more proof of Botham's enduring ability to light up the international stage.

He was almost out two balls later. Shoab Mohammad leap-

ing to his right at cover and almost bringing off a brilliant catch. Instead Botham ran a single as the ball spilled from the fielder's grasp.

Pakistan's innings, first delayed until noon and then interrupted three times by the weather, was minor triumph for their captain Javed Miandad.

He defied injury and illness to prop up his ailing Pakistan team, already 3-0 down in the five match series, with a gusty unbeaten 50.

Miandad is still struggling with the stomach complaint that caused him to miss Thursday's third one-day match and when he had reached 20, he called for runner because of the pain from a back injury that has troubled him for several years.

But he still hit five fours in his 59 ball effort, reaching his half century in the final over of the innings.

Salim Malik had earlier made 48 before being stumped by Richard Blakey off leftarm spinner Richard Illingworth — a distinguished first international victim for the 25-year-old wicketkeeper drafted into the squad.

All the Pakistan batsmen found runs hard to come by on a pitch helpful to the seam bowlers. Phil DeFretas ended with the best figures of two for 39.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth limited over cricket match between England and Pakistan at Lord's Sunday. Pakistan batted Saturday.

PAKISTAN:
Sohail c Stewart b DeFretas 20
Raja c Stewart b Botham 23
Malik st Blakey b Illingworth 48
Miandad not out 50
Inzamam c Blakey b Reeve 16
Anjum b DeFretas 23
Arjum not out 4
Extras: 20 (2 byes, 7 legbyes, 11 wides)
Total: (for five wickets) 204
Fall of wickets: 1-32; 2-91; 3-102; 4-137; 5-189.

Did not bat: Moin Khan, Waqar, Mushtaq, Aaqib.

Bowling: O M R W
DeFretas 10 2 39 2
Lewis 10 0 49 0
Botham 10 1 33 1
Reeve 10 1 31 1
Illingworth 10 0 43 1

ENGLAND

Botham st Moin Khan b Sohail 40
Stewart lbw b Waqar 0
Smith c Moin Khan b Aaqib 4
Fairbrother b Aaqib 33
Lamb c Moin Khan b Mushtaq 55
Hick b Sohail 8
Blakey b Waqar 25
Reeve not out 6
Lewis c sub b Akram 1
DeFretas c Mushtaq b Akram 0
Illingworth b Waqar 4
Extras: 25 (8 legbyes, 11 wides, 6 no balls)
Total: (all out) 201
Fall of wickets: 1-15; 2-30; 3-72; 4-111; 5-139; 6-172; 7-191; 8-193; 9-193; 10-201.

Bowling: O M R W
Akram 10 2 41 2
Waqar 9 2 0 36 3
Mushtaq 10 1 34 1
Aaqib 9 0 39 2
Sohail 5 0 22 2
Arjum 6 0 21 0

D'Oliveira puts Worcester in the driving seat

LONDON, Aug 23: A hard-hitting 81 from Damian D'Oliveira helped Worcestershire to a lead of 95 against Durham on a rain-interrupted second day of their three-day county championship match at New Road on Saturday, reports Reuter.

D'Oliveira, left out of the side earlier in the season, hit 13 fours and continued his bid to re-establish himself in the side.

Gavin Haynes survived a chance at first slip of John Wood while making 41 in an attractive partnership of 89 in 27 overs with D'Oliveira.

Medium-pace Ian Smith dismissed both batsmen within four balls in the first over of the afternoon, but Worcestershire recovered to be 294 for six after 96.2 overs when rain ended play for the day.

Another unrewarding day for bottom-of-the-table Durham brought one milestone when left-arm seamer Simon Brown became their first player to take 50 first-class wickets.

Rain affected all of the county matches to some extent and left championship challengers Northamptonshire and Kent frustrated when only 22 overs could be bowled in their crucial match at Northampton.

In that time, the home side, third in the table, reached 85 for two from 32 overs in reply to second-placed Kent's 196 all out.

Table-topping Essex are not playing in this round of matches.

The missing row

BERLIN, Aug 23: Even if Olympic champion Kevin Young had broken his world 400 metres hurdles record at the Berlin IAAF Grand Prix meeting on Friday night, it would not have counted, reports AFP.

For some inexplicable reason, the organisers managed to miss out a row of hurdles, it emerged on Saturday.

Young appeared puzzled by the absence of the second hurdle, and it probably broke his rhythm.

Meeting director Rudi Thiel said: "I saw Young make a gesture with his arm when he arrived at the spot where the missing hurdle should have been. It's a no laughing matter, we take a very serious view of this. After all, what would have happened if a record had been broken?"

In the event, Young finished in 47.81 seconds, well outside his Barcelona record time of 46.78, with Zambia's Samuel Matete second in 48.23.

Samaranch first Jesse Owens Global Award winner

NEW YORK, Aug 23: International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Juan Antonio Samaranch was named winner of the inaugural Jesse Owens Global Award, Herbert Douglas founder of the award, announced on Friday, reports Reuter.

The biannual award was created to honor individuals "who have made a significant and lasting contribution of enduring quality to society from a background of sports," Douglas said in a release announcing Samaranch as the first winner.

The recipient is chosen by a panel of authorities assembled by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

The winner is chosen for distinguished leadership over a period of years in focusing international attention on the potential of sports to inspire and encourage the pursuit of global unity, the release said.

Samaranch, who at the Barcelona Olympics announced that he would remain at his IOC post for another term, will receive the Jesse Owens Global Award on February 9, next year.

Imran blasts British media

KARACHI, Aug 23: Former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan bitterly criticised the British media on Saturday for their treatment of the Pakistani team in

Pakistan to England in 1982 and 1987 but not as prominent as during the current tour.

The former captain dismissed allegations of "ball doctoring" against Pakistani fast bowlers Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis and said the



Imran Khan, skipper of Pakistan's World Cup winning cricket team, addressing in a press conference in Karachi on Saturday. Imran slated the British media for accusing the Pakistani bowlers of tampering with the ball during their England tour.

England, saying they showed hostility towards Islam, reports Reuter.

He told reporters in Karachi he saw no reason for what he called the unfriendly attitude of the British press.

He said he felt it was because "the British press is hostile towards Islam and suffers from the Raj complex."

"The hostility towards the Pakistan team was actually hostility towards Islam because Pakistan is an Islamic country," he said.

Imran was asked to give his reaction about comments in the British press during Pakistan's current tour which ends on Monday with the fifth and the final one-day international.

Britain's tabloid newspapers have carried articles accusing the Pakistanis of bad sportsmanship and hinting they were cheated by doctoring the ball to make it swing more.

"Britain was a colonial power until half a century ago in this part of the world and the British press felt (badly) how a team from former colony could beat them," said Imran.

"It is this superiority complex that guided the media to be against Pakistan."

Imran said similar feelings were apparent when he led

British media had failed to appreciate the art of bowling developed by the two.

"Just because the English bowlers could not master the art, the way the two Pakistanis had done, the media think they were tinkering with the ball," he said.

Imran, 39, who opted out of the English tour after leading Pakistan to their World Cup win in Australia last March, hinted at the possibility of returning to Test cricket.

"I have not decided about my cricket career but I will take a decision in the coming October," he said.

Pakistan are due to leave for New Zealand and Australia that month and later in the year will tour the West Indies.

Imran said the series between Pakistan and the West Indies would decide the Test world championship. He rated the West Indies pace bowling attack highly and said the Pakistanis batting would be suspect against it.

Imran said South Africa had turned down his offer to lead a Pakistan team privately to the republic next month to raise funds for his cancer hospital project.

He said he would still visit South Africa to attend a number of dinners to raise funds for the hospital.

Indian officials deny summoning Tendulkar

NEW DELHI, Aug 23: Indian cricket officials denied today they had forced Test batsman Sachin Tendulkar to cut short his stint with English county Yorkshire to return for the start of the domestic season, reports Reuter.

Tendulkar's decision to return to India and play in the prestigious inter-zonal Duleep Trophy tournament was entirely his own, Indian Cricket Board secretary Chandappa Nagaraj told Reuters by telephone from Bangalore.

"We had intimated to Yorkshire and Tendulkar that he had been selected in the west zone side for the Duleep Trophy and (sent them) the tournament schedule."

Nagaraj, reacting to British newspaper reports that the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) decision to summon Tendulkar was a breach of the original agreement that took the 19-year-old to Yorkshire, said:

"The Yorkshire cricket club secretary had said he was pleased to release Tendulkar to play in the Indian competitions."

He added that neither the county nor the player had sought an exemption for Tendulkar from the Duleep Trophy, which launches the Indian domestic season a month earlier than normal because of a tour to Zimbabwe and South Africa in mid-October.

Yorkshire are in the lower half of the English Championship and Sunday league tables and have been eliminated from all knockout competitions.

The magic potion

BEIJING, Aug 23: China's Olympic medal-winning swimmers had a secret weapon which aided their success — a medicinal tonic made from an ancient recipe, a newspaper said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The medicine, made from a witches' brew of toad skin, birds' nests and other arcane ingredients, passed doping tests administered by the International Olympic Committee in Barcelona, the Guangming daily said.

"It increases their achievements by 100 per cent," the report said. Chinese swimmers scooped up three golds and a silver at the Summer Olympics which ended earlier this month.

The liquid helps to battle fatigue and build stamina, while containing no stimulants, the newspaper said.

The team started taking the tonic in April when the tonic's Chinese manufacturer, Kangda Medical Development Company, donated 100 cartons.

Men swimmers received 10 boxes each, while the women got five each.

NZ squash title goes to Devoy

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Aug 23: World champion Susan Devoy of New Zealand crushed Australian Michelle Martin in straight sets Sunday to win the New Zealand Open squash title for the eighth time in her career, reports AP.

Devoy downed fourth-seeded Martin 15-7, 15-12, 15-8 and said she had reaped the benefits of working with personal fitness trainer Vince Powell.

"I reckon I'm playing better now than I've ever played", Devoy said.

"After I got back from the British Open and was wondering whether I could carry on, he offered to help me. For so long I've done the physical training on my own and it's lonely and difficult to motivate yourself."

Devoy has dropped only one game in winning the Australian and New Zealand Opens in successive weeks.

She said she was confident of success in the world championships in Vancouver, BC, in October.

German Hansi Wiens, ranked 28th in the world, upset top seeded Austin Adarraga of Spain in the men's singles final.

Wiens kept his cool while Adarraga lost his temper and won 15-10, 14-15, 17-15, 15-7.

Adarraga repeatedly questioned decisions in the first game, which saw five strokes awarded.

With the German ahead 5-2 in the second game, Adarraga's emotions got the better of him. He disputed a let call and threw his racket which advanced the score to 6-2 for racket abuse. He then berated the referee in Spanish and was again penalised, for foul language, which made the score 7-2.

Defeat makes Lankans more determined

COLOMBO, Aug 23: Sri Lanka are going to get a "kick up their backsides" after Saturday's defeat in the first cricket Test, but they will come out a much stronger side according to Australian captain Allan Border, reports Reuter.

Talking to reporters after his team pulled off a sensational 16-run win in the first Test, Border said Sri Lanka would be "very hard to beat".

Needing 181 runs for victory in 56 overs, "Sri Lanka collapsed to 164 all out on the final day to lose by 16 runs in the first Test of the three-match series."

The win was only Australia's second on tours to the Indian sub-continent since 1969.

Their previous victory since then was also over Sri Lanka, at Kandy in 1983 where they won by an innings.

Border described his team's win as the best victory "I've had coming from behind."

"Generally I've been part of the Australian sides that have lost from positions like Sri Lanka were in. So I know exactly what they are going through."

"It has happened to me on three occasions and it's the first time I've won like that. So I have to write it down as one of the best victories," said the delighted captain.

"It is amazing how your mood changes. We were outplayed for 3-1/2 days probably. But we end up with a victory by really working hard on the last 1-1/2 sessions."

The second Test begins at the Khetarama Stadium in Colombo on Friday. On Monday the visitors play a three-day game against a Sri Lanka XI at Matara on the south coast.

Itinerary for England's tour

NEW DELHI, Aug 23: The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) has accepted the itinerary for England's tour of India beginning on January 3, Indian Cricket Board Secretary Chandappa Nagaraj said today, reports Reuter.

The TCCB had initially expressed some reservations about the itinerary released by the Board of Control for

Cricket in India (BCCI) in May but they have now accepted it, Nagaraj told Reuters by telephone from Bangalore.

"Changes would have considerably increased the travelling."

The two sides will play three Tests and six one-day internationals.

The Tests will be in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. The venues of two of the six one-day internationals are yet to be decided.

THE ITINERARY

- Jan 3 to 5 v Ranji champions Delhi at Faridabad
- Jan 8-10 v Board President's XI, Kanpur
- Jan 13 v Board President's XI, Indore
- Jan 16 First one-day international, Ahmedabad
- Jan 18 Second one-day international, Jaipur
- Jan 21 Third one-day international (venue not decided)
- Jan 25 v India under-25, Cuttack
- Jan 29-Feb 3 First Test, Calcutta
- Feb 5-7 v Rest of India, Hyderabad
- Feb 11-15 Second Test match, Madras
- Feb 19-23 Third Test match, Bombay
- Feb 26 Fourth one-day international, Bangalore
- March 1 Fifth one-day international, Jamshedpur
- March 4 Sixth one-day international (venue not decided)

Kangaroos in the Emerald Island

From A.M. Chowdhury, in Sri Lanka

This piece, written before the first Test which Australia won by sixteen runs Saturday, was received by mail only yesterday. Although much has happened on the playing field in between, yet the author's views and analysis of the comparative strengths of the two teams is still worth a read.

The Australian cricketers arrived in Sri Lanka on August 8 to play three Tests and three one-day matches besides a number of warm-up matches.

They are here after ten years; last time they won the only Test in Sri Lanka in 1982-83. In between, the Sri Lankans were in Australia to play two Test matches and they suffered a 0-1 defeat, the Lankans feeling bitter about the umpiring.

Allan Border, veteran of 130 Tests, is leading a new-look Australia. After the World Cup disappointment the Aussies are eager to re-establish their supremacy, and hence they

appear to be taking the series very seriously. In their pre-tour preparation the team was stationed in Darwin, where the conditions are similar to that of Sri Lanka. That clearly shows Allan Border's bent of mind and the Lankans are up against serious challenge.

Sri Lanka's cricket team is in a phase of a transition. Only one player of the eleven who played their first Test against Australia in 1982-83 is still around — the versatile Arjuna Ranatunga — and befittingly he will be leading the home team.

Ranatunga shall have the services of a few experienced hands — Arvinde de Silva (who is in great form), Roshan Mahanama and Asanka Gurusinha. The talented stars like Hathurusinghe, Jayasuriya and Atapattu will be eager to prove their worth before the home crowd. But in the bowling department the home team is rather weak, lacking genuine pace bowlers of quality. It is likely that Sri Lanka will have the home advantage of preparing the pitches to suit their bowlers, but a local writer, Mahinda Wijesinghe, lamented, "Where or who are the bowlers?"

Rumesh Ratnayake, the quickest of Lankan pacemen, is on the sidelines; the pace attack shall be manned by bowlers not having much of a pace. Champaka Ramanayaka, Graham Labrooy, Kapila Wijesinghe and the inexperienced Wickremasinghe may not be enough to hoist any danger signal for the Australians. The Lankans shall try to strike magic through their spinners but that prospect is also not so bright.

The spinners around are Don Annurastr, Madurasinghe, Muralitharan, Warnaweera, Wijetunga, Kalpage and Piyal Wijetunga. But the big question is who will strike? Local ex-

perts are of the opinion that the young right-arm spinners Muralitharan and Piyal Wijetunga are most likely to surprise the tourists. Both of them are young and they look the best bets for the future.

So at the moment, Sri Lanka can best hope for their batsmen to tilt the balance in their favour; the bowlers would do well if they succeed in containing the tourists, batting prowess.

The Aussies under Border look a fairly balanced side. Their batting line-up is strong enough to stir awe in the Lankan camp. Boon, Taylor, Jones, Moody, Mark Waugh and the new-comer Damien Martyn seem to provide a massive solidity along with wicket-keeper Healy and all-rounders Dodemate and Greg Matthews.

The attack, spearheaded by Craig McDermott, consists of the volatile Mike Whitney and Dodemate in the fast department and off-spinner Matthews aided by leg-spinner Shane Warne, the 350th Australian Test cap. It is likely that both the spinners in the 13-man squad shall have the chance of playing in Tests on the Lankan wickets, and it will be interesting to see how the home team shapes up to the Aussie guile.

Sri Lanka, yet to win a Test match abroad, have two home Test victories — one each against Pakistan and India. Are they going to register their third Test win?

The odds are against them. But let the series not be marred by any 'umpiring debacle'. When India lost Kapil Dev, the Indian skipper, publicly announced, "Sri Lanka will never win a Test outside her shores," and Pakistan skipper Imran Khan did not hesitate to pronounce the umpires as cheats.



Players engrossed in their third-round matches of the Foundation Open at the NSC chess room yesterday.

— Star photo