

Devarajan of Sri Lanka trapped leg before wicket off Prashanta Vaidya in yesterday's SAARC cricket tie against India at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. India kept their record clean with a facile 67-run victory. — Star photo

India-SA 1st one-dayer today

CAPE TOWN, Dec 6: South Africa's zest and India's experience have set the stage for a potentially thrilling limited-overs series which kicks off at Newlands here on Monday, reports AFP.



M AZHARUDDIN

Home conditions and an impressive track record make South Africa favourites to win the seven-match series under floodlights, but team coach Mike Proctor was not taking anything for granted.

"It can be anybody's game in one-day cricket," Proctor said. "Everything depends on how well you play on a particular day."

The rivals have cause to remember the World Cup earlier this year where South Africa zoomed into the semifinals in their maiden appearance, while the Indians won only two preliminary league matches against arch-rivals and eventual champions Pakistan and minnows Zimbabwe.

The sell-out crowds for South Africa's first-ever official one-day series will not settle for anything less than a repeat of that astonishing dream run

by Kepler Wessels' men. Indian cricket manager Ajit Wadekar sees the additional pressure on the South Africans as a blessing in disguise for his talented but in consistent team.

"We don't mind being the underdogs," said the former Test captain. "Let South Africa start as favourites, we'll do all the running."

"I expect a closer contest than what everybody is hoping for. Don't write us off," he said. The Indians were delighted at the return to form of captain Mohammad Azharuddin who stroked an unbeaten 69 in a morale-boosting six-wicket win over the President's XI in a floodlit warm-up match in Pietermaritzburg on Friday.

But the tourists face a dilemma over the inclusion of listless vice-captain Ravish Shastri who struggled to score 23 in 195 minutes during the draws second Test in Johannesburg last week and made only 11 against the President's XI.

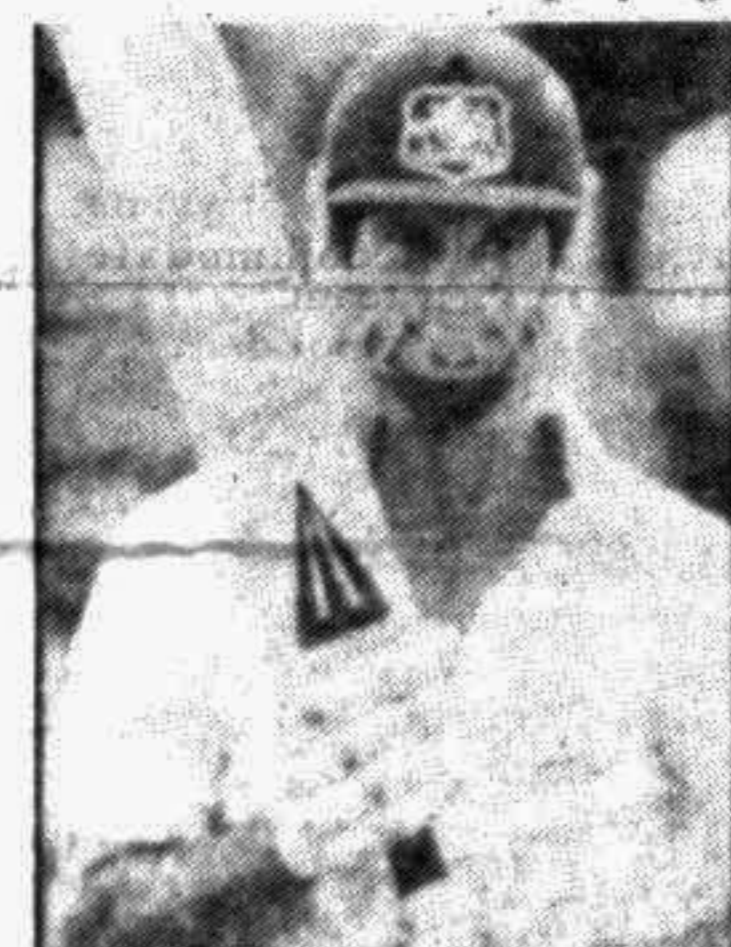
The Indians will decide on Monday whether to give a last chance to the lanky allrounder, a veteran of 146 one-day international, or bring in left-handed opener Woorkeri Raman, who made 47 against the President's XI.

India is expected to field the remaining 10 who played the second Test, once again leaving seamers Chetan Sharma and Subroto Banerjee, reserve wicket-keeper Vijay Yadav and spinner Venkatesh Prasad out of the side.

The South Africans were undecided whether to play left-arm pace bowler Brett Schultz, who has recovered from a hamstring injury that forced him out of the second Test, or blood 28-year-old northern Transvaal seamer Fanie de Villiers. The home 12 has a new

face in 27-year-old Eastern Province batsman Dave Callaghan, who fought back cancer and chemotherapy last year to make the national squad with a string of high scores this season.

The doctors told me I was mad to consider playing



KEPLER WESSELS

cricket again, but I have always believed in being positive," said Callaghan, who underwent two operations and three sessions of chemotherapy last year.

"I am now 100 percent fit and will go out there and play my best."

TEAMS

INDIA (from): Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Ravi Shastri, Ajay Jadeja, Woorkeri Raman, Sanjay Manjrekar, Sachin Tendulkar, Praveen Amre, Kapil Dev, Manoj Prabhakar, Kiran More (wicket-keeper), Javagal Srinath and Anil Kumble.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Kepler Wessels (captain), Andrew Hudson, Peter Kirsten, Jonty Rhodes, Hansie Cronje, Dave Callaghan, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson (wicket keeper), Fanie de Villiers, Brett Schultz, Allan Donald, Craig Matthews.

Unruly crowd makes UCBSA edgy

CAPE TOWN, Dec 6: South African cricket officials began a series of crisis talks on Saturday aimed at preventing a repeat of the unruly crowd scenes that marred India's one-day match on Friday, reports Reuter.

Spectator behaviour has become increasingly indisciplined during the tour and Ali Bacher, chief executive of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, signalled a new hard-line approach when he said: "We cannot and will not tolerate unruly crowd behaviour."

Local officials held talks on crowd control on Saturday ahead of Monday's opening one-day international against South Africa in Cape Town.

"They are due to meet again today with Bacher and board president Krish Mackerduj joining them on Monday to finalise arrangements for handling the 18,000 sell out crowd."

Friday witnessed the first serious trouble of the tour in a day-night match against a South African President's XI in Pietermaritzburg. It culminated in a pitch invasion that brought the match to a farcical

end with the players contriving a result to get off the pitch safely.

At least one spectator required hospital treatment afterwards.



ALI BACHER

"It is very important nothing happens at these games," said Bacher. "They are being televised around the world to a huge audience and must not reflect badly on South Africa abroad."

The local policy of restricting sales of alcohol and banning spectators from bringing their own into the ground will be underlined and stricter guidelines on pitch invasions

Come hell or high water Reynolds will run

RELEIGH, North Carolina, Dec 6: World 400 metres record holder Butch Reynolds, awarded 27.3 million in damages against the International Amateur Athletic Federation by an Ohio court, said he would return to competition despite IAAF threats to counter-sue or take further disciplinary action against him, reports Reuter.

"They can do what they want to do, but after their vindictive suspension ends January 1, I'm running," Reynolds told Reuters in a telephone interview on Friday from Louisville, Kentucky, where he is attending the Athletics Congress (TAC) national convention.

"Come hell or high water, I am going to get on the track," Reynolds said.

The IAAF suspended Reynolds for two years in 1990 for what it said was a positive dope test, but the American was continued to protest his innocence.

The London-based IAAF on Friday dismissed the award as "worthless" outside Ohio and added that Reynolds had made "a number of libelous allegations about the conduct of the IAAF and its officials."

The IAAF said it was considering "the possibility of commencing proceedings against Mr Reynolds for libel and taking further disciplinary action against him."

Reynolds said he was surprised by the IAAF's comments.

"The Federal Court is protecting me," he said. "That makes them (the IAAF) in contempt of court. They will go to jail if they step foot in the United States."

Reynolds said the IAAF statement would not stop him from running when his current suspension ends January 1. "They can do what they want to do, but they can't keep me from training or continuing my fight."

Asked if he feared an additional suspension from the IAAF, Reynolds said, "I have to do what I have to do, and I think I have my governing body (TAC) behind me."

Reynolds has TAC's support

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky, Dec 6: The US governing body for athletics on Saturday pledged to oppose any attempt by the International Amateur Athletic Federation to further suspend runner Butch Reynolds for his legal actions against the IAAF, reports Reuter.

Reynolds, the 400 metres world record holder suspended for two years for failing a dope test, won a judgement for 27.3 million dollar in damages against the IAAF, which then threatened to counter-sue or consider further disciplinary action against him.

The resolution supporting Reynolds who maintains his innocence, was one of 21 voted on during a three-hour session at the national convention.

Three other significant resolutions that passed were related to doping sanctions and testing procedures.

One asked that the IAAF abandon the contamination rule and instead rely on alternative sanctions currently in IAAF rules.

Speed skating World Cup results

KARUIZAWA, Japan, Dec 6: American Dan Jansen and Igor Zhelozovsky of Belarus won the men's races while Japan's Seiko Hashimoto and China's Ye Quabo were the women's winners Sunday in the speed skating World Cup, reports AP.

Veteran Jansen prevented Zhelozovsky from sweeping the men's 500-metre race, edging him by 0.12 seconds to win the race in 37.12 seconds. Zhelozovsky was second in 37.24. Zhelozovsky won the first round race Saturday.

Japan's Yukinari Miyabe finished third in 37.60. Zhelozovsky, the 1991 and 1992 World Sprint speed skating overall champion, took the 1,000-metre race for the second straight day when he won the Sunday's second round race in one minute, 15.42 seconds. Zhelozovsky also won the Saturday's first round race.

Sean Ireland of Canada finished second in 1:15.45, followed by Jansen who was timed in 1:15.60 at the Karuzawa Skate Centre in central Japan.

In the women's competition, Ye, the silver medalist in the 500- and 1,000-metres in the Albertville Winter Olympics, won the 500-metre for the two days in a row with the time of 40.80, beating American Bonnie Blair who was timed in 41.42.

Japan's Kyoko Shimazaki came in third in 41.56. In the two-day Karuzawa meet, Zhelozovsky led the World Cup point standing in the men's 500-metre with 47 points, followed by Jansen with 45 and Alexander Golubev of Russia with 38.

United States lead 2-1 Swiss duo gives Mac, Sampras a scare

FORT WORTH, Texas, Dec 6: John McEnroe's outbursts are usually confined to the tennis court for all the world to see. On Saturday, he took them behind closed doors.

In an emotional, fist-pumping locker room speech, McEnroe inspired partner Pete Sampras as the Americans came back to defeat Switzerland in a five-set doubles victory that moved the US team to the brink of recapturing the Davis Cup, reports AP.

Sluggish and unable to match the consistency of Jakob Hlasek and Marc Rosset for two sets, McEnroe and Sampras finally found their game as time was running out in the third to post a 6-7 (7-5), 6-7 (9-7), 7-5, 6-1, 6-2 victory.

Sampras said McEnroe stormed into the locker room during the 10-minute intermission after the third set and let loose a colourful pep talk.

"He was just getting pumped up: 'Let's kick some ass.' It was on that level," Sampras said. "Mac in the locker room was so pumped up, just ranting and raving, and we went out there and played extremely good tennis."

Gonzalez retains WBC crown

MEXICO CITY, Dec 6: Miguel Angel Gonzalez of Mexico retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) lightweight crown on Saturday in a bruising points victory over Darryl Tyson of the United States, reports Reuter.

The unanimous verdict gave Gonzalez, 22, his 27th victory in 27 professional fights. Tyson, ceding 10-years to the defending champion, constantly harried the Mexican onto the ropes and mauled him in corners but never landed a killer blow.

Gonzalez wriggled out of Tyson's clutches to take the fight back to the American in the centre of the ring, where his longer reach and greater height gave him the edge.

After a tentative first three rounds of jabbing and clinching which brought catcalls from the strongly partisan Mexico City audience, Tyson became the more fisty of the two, charging out of his corner from the bell to corner the Mexican.

Gonzalez looked to get the worst of the sixth round as Tyson, worked him over on the ropes but bursts back in the seventh with a right to Tyson's head which stopped the American in his tracks.

Gonzalez pushed home his advantage in the ninth, brining the crowd to its feet with a rain of blows that had Tyson reeling backwards, and followed up in the 10th with a string of crunching uppercuts as the American dodged and weaved to little effect.

Tyson, behind on points, threw his all into a last assault in the 12th, trying to bustle Gonzalez into a corner one last time, but the Mexican kept his cool and jabbed out the round to complete his first successful title defence.

The three ringside judges scored the fight 120-110, 118-110 and 120-108 in favour of the Mexican, who won the vacant WBC lightweight crown in August in Mexico City by stopping Willfredo Rocha of Colombia after 10 rounds.

US team captain Tom Gorman, who refused to reveal McEnroe's words of wisdom — "We'll just leave that in the locker room," he chuckled — at one point asked his players who were watching from the sideline to tone down their outbursts.



JOHN MCENROE

The Swiss have repeatedly charged that the American players have shown a lack of decorum from the sidelines. The triumph in the pivotal doubles match before a boisterous crowd of 11,417 at the Tarrant County Convention Centre gave the United States a 2-1 lead in the best-of-5 competition.

The winner will be decided in Sunday's two singles matches.

The US team can clinch the Cup if top-ranked Jim Courier beats No 34 Hlasek in Sunday's first match. Courier is the first American since McEnroe in 1984 to finish the year ranked No 1 in the world, but he is just 2-5 in the Davis Cup.

If Hlasek wins, the outcome will rest on the final match between No 9 Agassi and Rosset. Agassi is 19-4 in the Davis Cup, where he hasn't lost in two years. Rosset won the gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics.

For McEnroe, 33, who has indicated this is likely his last

year on the tour, the victory would serve as a fitting farewell to tennis' yearly international championships, which he helped the United States win in 1979, 1981 and 1982.

McEnroe emerged as the emotional leader in the fourth and fifth sets, and Sampras fed



PETE SAMPRAS

off of his enthusiasm, gaining more and more courage and attacking with powerful, forehands and crisp volleys.

McEnroe converted the match's crucial break in the fifth game of the fifth set when he jammed Rosset with a crosscourt service return that the Swiss player barely touched, giving the United States a 3-2 advantage.

Sampras held for 4-2, and then Hlasek, who had been the steadiest of the four players early on, crumbled, double-faulting on the last two points to give the US team a 5-2 lead.

McEnroe, who had earlier sulked and argued several line calls, held at love in the eighth and final game and finished the match with an ace.

"I think we ran out of steam," Hlasek said. "I think it's normal. We are two against much more. We played very well at the beginning, but our strength left us and I think that's the reason why we lost."

"Tomorrow it's another day," Hlasek added. "We lost a

battle today, but it's 1-2 and I think Mac and I, we played a wonderful match and we are going to regroup and try to do the best tomorrow, again."

On Friday, Agassi ran his Davis Cup winning streak to 10 matches with a straight-set victory over Hlasek. But Rosset used 27 aces and rallied from a 2-1 deficit for the first time in his career to beat Courier.

McEnroe and Sampras seemed to be waiting for each other to take charge until the 12th game of the third set Saturday, when both players stepped up and hit dazzling shots, including a bullet forehand service return by McEnroe off Rosset's serve to clinch the break and the set, 7-5.

In the fourth set, Sampras repeatedly pounded forehand winners and McEnroe's service returns consistently landed at the Swiss players' shoelaces as the Americans dominated 6-1.

"It was just a matter of time before we got a couple of breaks," Sampras said. "The last two sets was the best doubles I've ever played."

The Americans showed flashes of brilliance, but failed to rattle the Swiss team early. The experience of Rosset and Hlasek, who won doubles titles at the 1992 Italian and French Opens, showed as they frequently cut off shots at the net for angle winners.

McEnroe, who has avoided all news conferences and practised in closed session since reports surfaced last week that his marriage to actress Tatum O'Neal is in trouble, won for the 18th time in 20 Davis Cup doubles matches.

The US team is trying to avoid a repeat of last year's failure, when Sampras lost both of his matches in Lyon as France won their first Davis Cup trophy since 1932.

"It's kind of a stepping stone," a vindicated Sampras said Saturday. "Now I can get the Lyon nightmare out of my head."

Costa Rican WC hopes dashed

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, Dec 6: Honduras clinched a berth in the next Round of World Cup qualifying by beating Costa Rica 2-1 (1-0) on Saturday in their CONCACAF Group A match, reports Reuter.

Juan Flores of the Honduran team scored the first goal in the 15th minute of the game and Cesar Obando provided the cushion with another goal in the 51st minute.

Costa Rica's Javier Astua cut the lead in half with a goal in the 73rd minute but Honduras remained in control at General Tiburcio Carias Stadium before a crowd of 38,000.

The victory gave Honduras a total of eight points from five games and propelled them to the top of Group A.

Mexico, who face St Vincent in Mexico City today, also look ready to advance. Mexico, 4-0 winners over St Vincent in their previous encounter, are currently on six points.

The top two teams from CONCACAF Group B, comprising Canada, El Salvador, Jamaica and Bermuda, will also advance and the winner of the subsequent phase automatically qualifies to plays in the 1994 World Cup championship in the United States.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 'Ferdinand' cartoonist consumer 8 Deil said 12 Bat wood 13 Gumbo base 14 One of the spheres? 15 Call day 16 Denounce vehemently 17 Potter's need 18 Quarter-back's time? 21 Fool 22 "Wow!" 23 Silent ones 26 Energy 27 Dance that may be up? 30 Heavenly instrument 31 Kurosawa movie 32 Clio or Erato 33 Water cooler? 34 Shriners' topper 35 Stingy 36 Sine non 37 Chaps 38 Special time? 45 Tom Joad, for one 46 Scat singer of note 47 Battle 48 Ostentation 49 Horse of another color? 50 Cool cucumber 51 Difficulty Solution time: 23 mins.

A crossword puzzle grid with letters filled in. The grid is 11 columns wide and 11 rows high. The letters are arranged in a pattern that allows for the crossword clues to be solved.

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating the starting positions of the clues. The grid is 11 columns wide and 11 rows high. The numbers are placed in the squares where the words begin.

CRYPTOQUIP Q R P K Z X H P R J H Q P H P K Y B H Q H Y M J V R X H Q A K Y N B M X Q A H S M N N S R H K H D Y Z H Q O Y P Q R P V Y M B X Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY DID THE STAFF MEMBERS AT WATER-BOTTLING PLANT HAVE SPRING FEVER? Today's Cryptoquip clue: R equals U 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.