

Sport

Jones drives the nail in Pak coffin

MELBOURNE, Jan 12: Dean Jones led Australia to a 32-run victory over Pakistan in a World Series limited-overs cricket match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday night, but suffered a chipped right thumb in the

Hayden brightens his chances

SYDNEY, Jan 12: Opener Matthew Hayden spent his fourth consecutive day on the field as Queensland's Sheffields Shield match with South Australia ended in the tamest of draws in Adelaide on Monday, reports Reuter.

Hayden followed an unbeaten 161 in the first innings with 35 not out in the second, enhancing his England tour prospects.

Hayden's feat has been achieved nine times in Test cricket, the last by England's Geoff Boycott in 1977.

South Australia batted on into the last session on Monday before skipper Jamie Siddons declared at 310 for nine, leaving Queensland the impossible task of scoring 309 off 24 overs.

Siddons said he was not prepared to risk handing away the match after Queensland had batted so slowly on Sunday.

In Perth, Tony Dodemaide celebrated his recall to international cricket, against Pakistan today, with 123 to save Victoria from defeat by Western Australia.

Thirty minutes after he was out, play ended by mutual consent with Victoria 457 for seven after trailing by 175 on the first innings.

Agassi's bad luck

SYDNEY, Jan 12: Andre Agassi, who had planned to make his Australian Open debut next week, has been forced to withdraw because of illness, officials said Tuesday, reports AP.

Geoff Pollard, president of Tennis Australia, said he had been informed that a virus and a bacterial infection had developed into bronchitis and would keep the Wimbledon champion from competing in the two-week Grand Slam event.

"Obviously we are disappointed," Pollard said. "Although Andre's ranking has slipped to nine, he is still an exciting player and we were looking forward to seeing him here."

Pollard said there are still hopes that Agassi will come to Melbourne for the first-round Davis Cup pairing against the United States March 26-28.

The Open, to be played from January 18 to 31, has attracted the world's top five players, including number one Jim Courier who will be defending the title he won in 1992.

The women's draw is the strongest in the Open's history with 29 of the top 30 women players, including number one and defending champion Monica Seles.

There is also a question mark over Ivan Lendl's fitness for the Open after his withdrawal from this week's New South Wales Open with a nagging groin injury.

process, reports AP.

Jones top-scored with 84 in Australia's total of 212 for six but batted in pain for much of

the 31-year-old said later he was still hopeful he would be fit for Thursday's now meaningless match against Pakistan at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

"There's a crack right through the top knuckle and I've got the thumb in a splint at the moment," Jones said.

It's pretty sore, but I'll play with a couple of injections in Sydney if I have to.

I can't afford to have the time off at the moment and the only real problem I'm going to have are with my throwing and catching."

Jones came to the crease with Australia at nine for one after the early loss of vice-captain Mark Taylor and provided the backbone of the Australian innings, sharing a 124-run stand with David Boon, who contributed a solid 64.

Australian captain Allan Border became only the fourth batsman after Desmond Haynes, Javed Miandad and Viv Richards to post 6,000 one-day runs when he reached 11. He was unbeaten at 14 at the close of the innings.

Pakistan never really got going in their run-chase. After 41 overs the tourists' target was an impossible 10 runs per over.

Captain Javed Miandad and Rameez Raja both contributed 40 and Salim Malik chipped in with 37, but the Pakistanis never threatened an under-strength Australian attack.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps in Tuesday's World Series limited-overs cricket match between Australia and Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground:

AUSTRALIA: M Taylor c Rashid b Aaqib 4

D Boon c Shahid b Mujtaba 64
D Jones b Waqar 84
S Waugh c and b Mujtaba 5
M Waugh b Waqar 12
A Border not out 14
I Healy run out 3
I Dodemaide not out 15
Extras: (3b, 21b, 3w, 3nb) 11
Total: (six wickets) 212
Fall of wickets: 9; 133; 153; 180; 181; 187.

Bowling: O M R W
Wasim Akram 10 0 28 0
Aaqib Javed 8 0 39 1
Waqar Younis 10 0 39 2
Aamir Sohail 5 0 27 0
Shahid Saied 8 0 36 0
Asif Mujtaba 9 0 38 2

PAKISTAN:

A Sohail c Healy b McDermott 3
R Raja c Healy b S Waugh 40
S Saeed b Dodemaide 3
S Malik b McDermott 37
J Miandad c Border b M
Waugh 40
Inzamamul Haq not out 39
W Akram c M Waugh b
Reiffel 3
R Latif c Healy b Reiffel 5
A Mujtaba not out 5
Extras: (1b 4lb) 5
Total: (seven wickets) 180
Fall of wickets: 10; 28; 69: 97; 142; 154; 171.

Bowling: O M R W
Craig McDermott 10 2 26 2
Tony Dodemaide 8 0 25 1
Paul Reiffel 10 1 37 2
Steve Waugh 8 0 22 1
Tim May 10 0 41 0
Mark Waugh 4 0 24 1

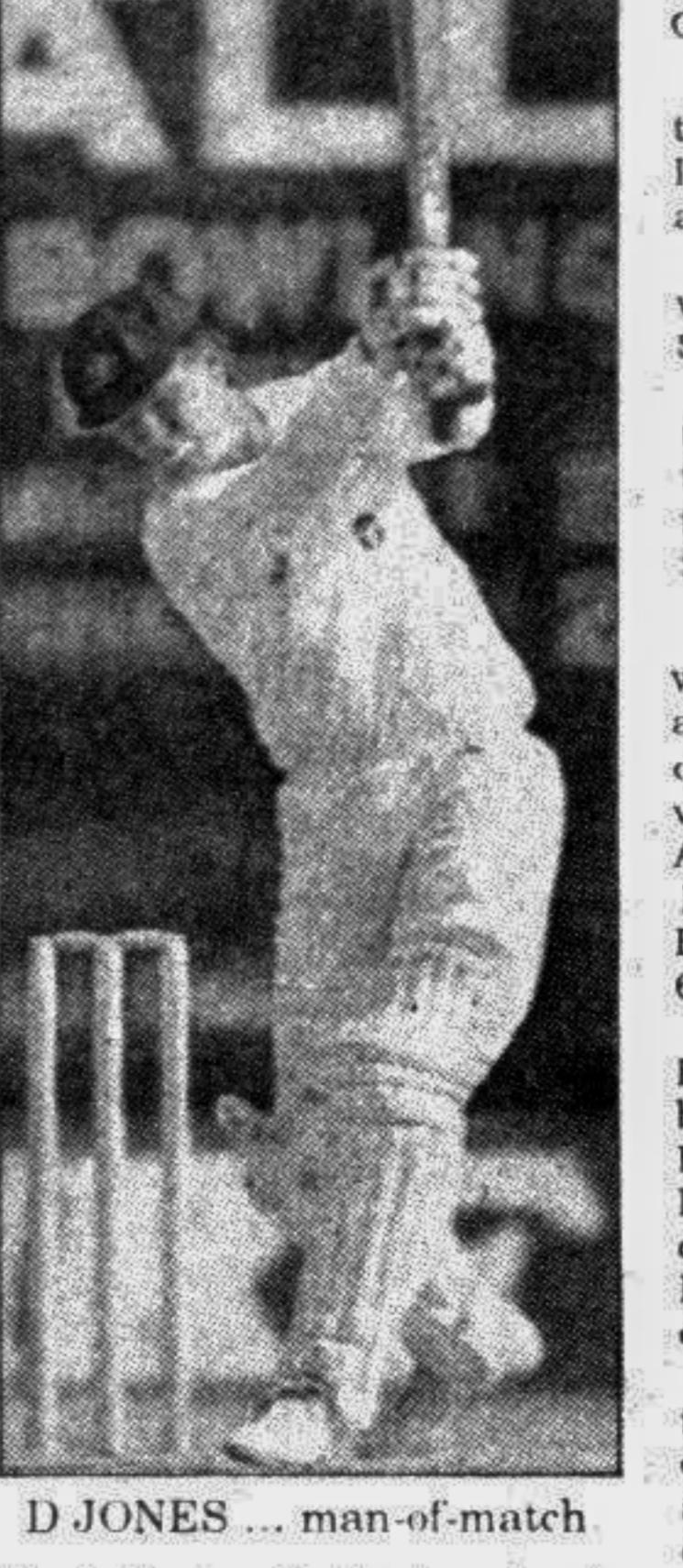
Australia won by 32 runs.

Man-of-the-Match: Dean Jones.

STANDINGS

Standings in the World Series limited-overs cricket competition after Tuesday night's match (tabulate under matches played, won, lost, tied or no result, points):

West Indies 8 5 3 0 10
Australia 7 4 2 1 9
Pakistan 7 1 5 1 3



D JONES ... man-of-match

his innings after being struck on the right hand by a ball from fast bowler Waqar Younis.

World Cup holder Pakistan could only manage 180 for seven in their allotted 50-overs in reply and the loss eliminated them from playoff contention.

Australia will face the West Indies to decide the winner of the triangular series.

Jones struck three fours and one six after being given painkillers by team physiotherapist Errol Alcott.

Sloppy Sampras squeezes through

SYDNEY, Jan 12: Top-seeded Sampras nearly double-faulted his way out of the New South Wales Open tennis tournament Tuesday, while No 2 Richard Krajicek found his powerful serve wasn't strong enough,

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Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the No 2 women's seed, shrugged off an injury to beat Letia Meskhi of Georgia 4-6, 6-4, 6-0. The women's runner-up here last year twisted her right ankle at deuce with the score 4-3 in the second set. She had it taped heavily and did not seem to be hampered seriously.

Jennifer Capriati, the 16-year-old No 4 women's seed, made her debut at the White City complex a quick one, zipping past France's Isabelle Demongeot 6-1, 6-2.

American compatriot Lori McNeil, the No 7 seed, also advanced with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Florencia Labat of Argentina. No 5 Anke Huber fought off a pair of match points in the third set to beat American Ann Grossman 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5).

Sampras, an American ranked third in the world, double-faulted seven times in the first set in the gusty, swirling Centre-Court winds, including twice at break point to hand Medvedev the lead.

Sampras overcame a slow start to defeat Andrei Medvedev 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in a first-round match. But Krajicek ran into defending champion Emilio Sanchez of Spain and lost 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-3).

No 3 Guy Forget of France and No 5 Carlos Costa of Spain

also were ousted from the dls 575,000 event, leaving only half the eight men's seeds in the second round. Costa lost 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 to Israel's Amos Mansdorf, while Forget was beaten by fellow Frenchman Cedric Pioline 7-6 (9-7), 6-3.

Sampras, an American ranked third in the world, double-faulted seven times in the first set in the gusty, swirling Centre-Court winds, including twice at break point to hand Medvedev the lead.

He again double-faulted to give Medvedev a break and a 3-2 lead in the second set before the Ukraine native dug himself a hole in the next game, committing two unforced errors

and a double fault.

Sampras ran off nine of 10 games, including a stretch where he won 23 of 29 points.

The only problem he had the rest of the way was a brief bloody nose that he blamed on dry conditions in his hotel room.

"I got off to a pretty slow start. I was down a set and a break before I knew it," said the 21-year-old Sampras. "I finally got it together. As the match went on, I played better and better."

He said a first-round battle against a player the calibre of Medvedev, who has risen 202 places in the last year to his current 24th ranking, provides a good idea of how well he is hitting after taking nearly a month off.

"To get through that match is a pretty good effort," Sampras said. "It was a match I could have lost very easily."

He said he feels good going into next week's Australian Open, where injuries have knocked him out the last two years. And the possibility of taking the No 1 ranking provides extra motivation.

"It's something I've definitely thought about," Sampras said.

"I've had two pretty good sniffs at it. But I'm not going to dwell on it."

Sanchez, known more as a baseliner, used a strong serve and style to advance to the second round against Krajicek. There were no service breaks in either set.

Pete Sampras

reports AP.

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