

Kiwi 'keeper in doubt for 2nd Test

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Mar 2: New Zealand wicketkeeper Adam Parore is in doubt for the second cricket Test against Australia after being badly injured during net practice on Tuesday, reports AP.

Parore was taken to hospital for treatment after being struck over the left eye by teammate Chris Cairns. The 22-year-old was batting with a helmet but a short ball from Cairns forced its way through the protective grill and opened up a deep cut just beneath the eyebrow.

Parore has been New Zealand's first choice wicketkeeper since the retirement of longtime incumbent Ian Smith after last season's World Cup. In eight Tests Parore has claimed 27 dismissals and has a Test batting average of 14.1.

New Zealand captain Martin Crowe said he doubted whether Parore could recover sufficiently in less than 48 hours to take his place in the lineup for Thursday.

"It's the worst cut I've seen and it's wicked blow," Crowe said.

"The thing that you worry about is the swelling because it's such a bad gash around the eyes. The word is that he doesn't look too good."

Parore's injury is a further worry to the New Zealand camp following Australia's comprehensive innings and 60-run victory on Sunday in the first Test at Christchurch.

Crowe told the selectors during the game he was prepared to resign and held a team meeting before training began Tuesday. He spoke to his players for several minutes and at one stage asked them how much they wanted to play for New Zealand.

Former skipper John Wright then spoke briefly, as did coach Warren Lees.

The suitability of Crowe as skipper has had much media



ADAM PARORE

Crowe's offer rejected

WELLINGTON, Mar 2: New Zealand cricket selectors turned down captain Martin Crowe's offer to resign after his team's dismal performance against Australia in the first Test, the Dominion newspaper reported today, reports Reuter.

Selection panel convenor Don Neely said Crowe had the full backing of the panel.

New Zealand's defeat by an innings and 60 runs in the first Test against Australia at Christchurch was their third successive Test defeat against different countries. The match ended on Sunday, one day early.

Crowe was quoted by Wellington's Evening Post as saying that while he wanted to stay on as captain he could accept a decision to have replaced.

"I would like to carry on as New Zealand captain if I can because I want to sort out the

problems the side is having."

"But it is not working at the moment and I am prepared for anything. I can have no arguments with any decisions the selectors might make," Crowe said.

Neely confirmed Crowe did offer to step down during discussions at Christchurch.

"Maybe that was an option among the many discussed but as far as we (the selectors) are concerned Martin is the best man for the job and we stand behind him and the team," Neely said.

Neely said Crowe was looking for a solution to the fact that New Zealand has had only one Test win since 1990.

Crowe was asked to contemplate standing down as New Zealand captain after the Kiwis' dismal 2-0 home Test series loss to England.

Instead he stayed in charge as New Zealand produced some thrilling cricket to reach the World Cup semifinals.

he had wanted to clear the air within the team.

"I want everyone to take notice and to listen and if they're asked to do something, to give it 100 per cent."

The Australians did not have a full net practice Tuesday, preferring only a light fielding session.

Captain Bob Simpson said the tourists were watching Crowe's progress closely but said the future of the New Zealand captain would have little effect on their approach to the rest of the tour.

"That's their problem," said Simpson. "We have a very stable, happy team. We will look at it with interest but it will have no real effect on us."

Australia will train Wednesday but an unchanged side is expected to be named with Tim May and Damien Martyn to miss out again.

Maradona may play for Galatasaray

ISTANBUL, March 2: Argentine Diego Maradona said on Tuesday he could play for Turkey's Galatasaray soccer team next year if he does not renew his contract with Spanish club Sevilla, reports Reuter.

"If I don't reach agreement with Sevilla, I will come to play for Galatasaray," Maradona told a news conference in Istanbul. "It would be a great pleasure to play in Turkey."

Maradona, in Turkey for a friendly between Sevilla and Galatasaray on Tuesday, said he wanted to play for a team competing for the league championship.

"I am accustomed to playing for champion teams," he said.

Galatasaray, one of Turkey's leading teams, is currently in third place in the First Division, three points behind the league leaders Fenerbahce.

Maradona, 32, who has served a 15-month suspension for taking drugs, played for the Argentine side who drew 1-1 with Brazil in a friendly last Thursday.

It was his first appearance for the national side since the 1990 World Cup.

Fans make Navratilova's adrenalin flow

PARIS, Mar 2: No red meat and no Chris Evert is helping Martina Navratilova prolong her tennis career, writes AFP.

"If the crowd hadn't been on my side in the last couple of years, it's pretty safe to say that I wouldn't be playing any more," she says.

"For most of my career I've been fighting the crowd, which is hardly surprising when I played so many big matches against Chris Evert."

"But to have them on my side now is great. I make it so much easier to fight, it makes it so much more enjoyable," she said after beating Monica Seles in the final of the recent Paris Open, a fortnight after she beat Steffi Graf on her way to victory in Tokyo.

A double over the top two players in the world. Not bad for a player who will have turned 37 by the time she completes her 20th year on the circuit this November.

A rigorous training regime and a carefully monitored diet — she is practically vegetarian and never eats red meat — also play their part in sustaining Navratilova at an age when many former players are martyrs to their knees.

"I've got very good physique, that's something I was born with, so I guess I have to thank my parents for their good genes," she says.

"But I also have to work at it. If I were to eat the wrong thing before a match now it would throw me whereas when I was 20 I might have been able to get away with it."

"For me the main work comes before a tournament. It's a question of keeping my body fresh. People overwork sometimes and they have nothing left for the tournament."

Before the Paris final, Seles had won the pair's last three encounters and Navratilova admitted she was developing an edge.

"But if I can beat her on a surface as slow as in Paris, I know I can beat her on grass," says Navratilova whose overriding ambition remains Wimbledon.

Beating Seles and Graf in ordinary tour events is one



Czech-born naturalised American Martina Navratilova lifts the trophy after winning the Toray Pan Pacific open tennis tournament in this file photo taken on February 7, 1993 in Yokohama, Japan. It was Navratilova's 162nd career title. —AFP photo

fort to win her 19th Grand Slam tournament, equalling the haul of Helen Wills Moody and leaving her second only to Margaret Court.

She was looking pretty good last year until Seles stopped her in the semi-finals.

"That experience has made Navratilova guarded about predicting too much, but when asked about Wimbledon, it is clear she really believes she can win."

"Since the US Open I've made the final of every tournament I've played," she says. "I've beaten them all: Seles, Graf, Sabatini and Sanchez. What I haven't done is beat them back-to-back and that's what makes the difference in the Grand Slams."

A schedule designed with an eye on personal pleasure helps sustain her enthusiasm for the game. Paris completed a run of three continents in three weeks but that was exceptional.

She is now enjoying five weeks off at her home base in

Aspen Colorado. "I'm going to be working hard ... on my ski preparation. She will find her feet on grass first at Hillton

ing," she jokes.

After the Amelia Island tournament in April, Navratilova has another month off before the Italian Open in early May, a trip she admits is as much about visiting Rome as for the clay-court tennis.

"I went out there just about every night a couple of years ago and had my best food I have ever eaten," she says. "I have to play some matches so I'd rather it was in Rome than in Berlin."

Roffie will also provide the opportunity to visit her home town of Prague. Although she has been a US citizen since 1981, she maintains close ties with her mother who still lives in the Czech Republic and a sister now based in Germany.

"I can't go to see my mother before a tournament because the food she feeds me makes it impossible. She says have some of this cake, it's very light. What she means is it is light in colour."

After Rome, Navratilova will be on a full time Wimbledon

Head, South Carolina before going to England in early June.

As for the last four years she will miss the French Open. "It's too close and too different, physically and emotionally, to Wimbledon and I know I've got a better chance at Wimbledon."

A surprise change Navratilova has made this year is to skip the pre-Wimbledon Eastbourne tournament for the first time since 1977 to avoid the risk of fatigue. "It's a 64 draw so you have to play every day and if it rains, which it inevitably does. You can end up playing two matches in a day. I end up starting Wimbledon shattered."

Instead, Navratilova will play at Beckenham and Birmingham and have a week off before the start of the two-week tournament.

Navratilova has still to decide if this will be her last year on the circuit. "Playing great tennis makes you want to play for ever but I honestly just don't know," she says.

Abedi Pele's WC dream dashed

PARIS, Mar 2: Last year's African Nations Cup finalist Ghana crashed out of the soccer World Cup at the weekend, ending Abedi Pele's dream of appearing in next year's finals in the United States, reports Reuter.

Tunisia, who played in the 1978 finals, and Kenya were also eliminated as the nine qualifiers for the second round emerged from the closing matches of the African qualifying groups.

Ghana, needing a draw in Algeria in their final game, took the lead but lost 2-1 in Tiecenen for the home side to go through as winners of Group A.

Marseille forward Pele, African player-of-the-year for each of the last two years, captained the side despite an attack of flu. He was speechless with disappointment after the game.

Pele was invited to New York for the World Cup draw in 1991 for a first meeting with his Brazilian name sake, amid high hopes Ghana's black stars would reach the finals for the first time.

The 31-year-old is now un-

likely to get another chance to crown his career with a World Cup finals appearance but the prospects had looked good when striker Akonkor shot the visitors into the lead in the 15th minute.

But second half goals from Brahim, the second an agonising seven minutes from the final whistle, put Algeria through.

Tunisia needed an away win in Casablanca to go through but could only manage a 0-0 draw as Morocco advanced from Group F.

Kenya beat Guinea 2-0 in

Nairobi but went out to the visitors, who had surprisingly beaten them 4-0 in the first leg in a Group I reduced to just two teams.

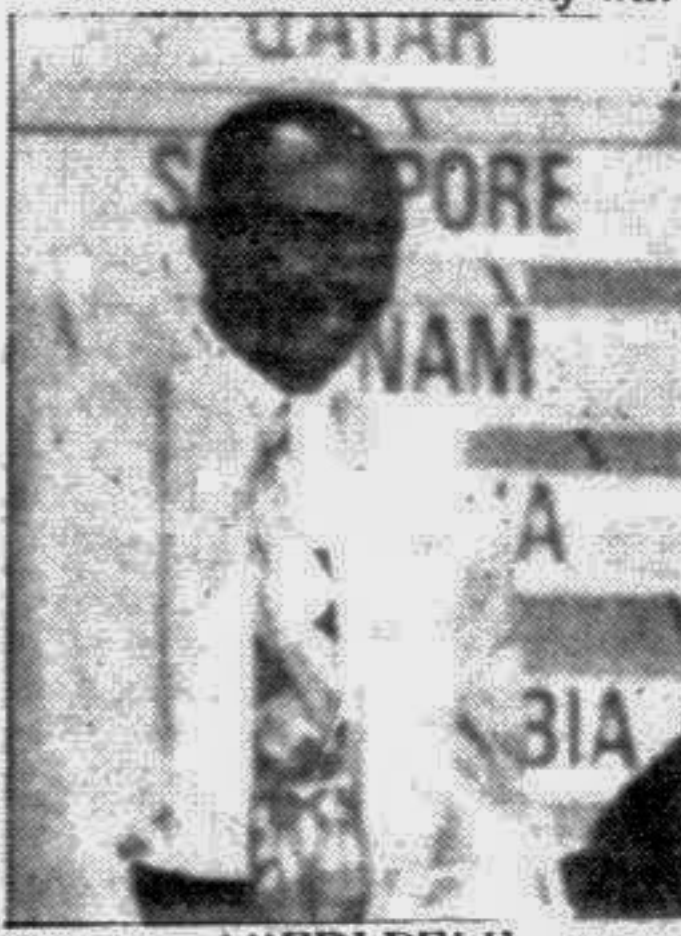
African champions Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Egypt, Senegal and Zambia also qualified and Cameroon, quarter-finalists in Italy in 1990, are virtually certain to join them.

Their home game with Zaïre was postponed because the visitors had transport problems but only a heavy defeat would give Swaziland, third team in Group B, an outside chance of qualifying.

Egypt, the other African team in the 1990 finals, were close to failure against Zimbabwe, needing a victory, they went 1-0 down after only five minutes but triumphed with a 32nd minute penalty from Ashraf Gasseem and a 40th minute winner from Hossam Hassan to win Group C on goal difference.

Zambia also squeezed through on goal difference in Group H with a 3-1 victory over Madagascar.

The nine qualifiers play in three groups of three between April 16 and October 10 with each group winners going to the United States.



ABEDI PELE

Bizarre!

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Mar 2: Some 50 fans of an Argentine soccer club hijacked two buses, forcing the drivers to take them to an away match and then drive them back home, the state news agency Telam reported on Monday, reports Reuter.

Fans of Third Division club Chacarita Juniors on Sunday commandeered the buses in a western Buenos Aires slum and after forcing off the passengers made the drivers take them to a stadium in a northern suburb where their team was playing against Tigre football club.

The fans then forced the drivers to stay with them through the match and drive them back home.

It was not clear if the fans were armed, but they are known to usually carry bass drums which they beat with heavy rubber hoses which double as weapons.

Chacarita, whose fans are known as 'The Undertakers' because Argentina's largest cemetery bears the same name, beat Tigre 4-0.

Forget falls, Gilbert moves up

INDIAN WELLS, California, Mar 2: Brad Gilbert called it a strange win, but he'll take it.

Gilbert, the oldest player in the \$1.7 million Champions Cup, rallied for a 6-7, 6-2, 7-6 victory over ninth-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain on Monday in a first-round match, reports agencies.

Gilbert, 31, who will represent the United States in a first-round Davis Cup match against Australia in Melbourne later this month, won the third-set tiebreaker 7-4 to complete the 2-hour, 39-minute match.

Gilbert won the first five games of the match, but Bruguera won the next five and ultimately, the Spaniard won the first-set tiebreaker 7-3.

The second set was tied 2-2 before Gilbert swept four straight games without losing a point to even the match.

Bruguera won the first four games of the third set before Gilbert won the next five. Bruguera won two of the next three, setting up the tiebreaker.

"It was a strange match," Gilbert said. "He was complaining every game about line

calls. I kept fighting back. Never in my career have I lost a set when I was up 5-0. None of the other top 10

seeds played on Monday. Guy Forget of France, seeded 11th, was also upset, losing to Jim Grabb 7-6, 6-3.

The other two seeded players in action Monday both won — 13th seeded MalVai Washington beat qualifier Patrick Rafter of Australia 7-5, 7-6, and 16th-seeded Arnaud Boetsch of France outlasted



BRAD GILBERT

Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Fourteen of the top 18 players in the world are competing in the tournament at the Grand Champions Resort. Top-seeded Jim Courier, ranked No. 1 in the world, faces David Wheaton on Tuesday in a second-round match. Wheaton advanced by beating qualifier Alex O'Brien 6-1, 7-5 on Monday.

In other first-round matches Monday, Todd Martin defeated Wayne Black of Zimbabwe 7-6, 6-0; Car-Uwe Steeb of Germany eliminated Tomas Carbonell of Spain 6-0, 3-6, 7-6; Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland outlasted Cedric Pioline of France 6-7, 7-6, 7-5; Rikkey Renberg topped Jordi Arrese of Spain 7-5, 7-5; Luiz Mattar of Brazil beat Robbie Weiss 6-3, 6-4; Jaime Yzaga of Peru rallied to defeat Stefano Pescosolido of Italy 5-7, 6-3, 6-1; Francisco Clavet of Spain overpowered Gabriel Markus of Argentina 6-3, 6-2; qualifier Grant Stafford of South Africa eliminated Luis Herrera of Mexico 6-0, 7-5; and qualifier Jonathan Stark topped Andrei Chesnokov of Russia 6-0, 5-7, 6-3.

Austin to play in World Team tennis

CHICAGO, Mar 2: Tracy Austin, who last week played her first 'singles' tournament since 1989, will continue her comeback by competing in World Team Tennis this summer, reports AP.

The WTT said Monday the 30-year-old former US Open champion will play for the Raleigh Edge, one of 12 teams in the league. Austin played for the WTT's New Jersey Stars in 1989.

Last week Austin advanced to the third round of the Evert Cup, beating Rennae Stubbs and No. 12-ranked Katerina Maleeva. That marked her first competitive singles event since 1989, when her attempt at a comeback was halted by a car accident.

Austin, who at age 16 became the youngest US Open winner in 1979, will be joined on the WTT circuit by Bjorn Borg (Los Angeles), Jimmy Connors (Phoenix), Martina Navratilova (Atlanta) and Mats Wilander (New Jersey).

"I am extremely excited to have Tracy as part of the team," Raleigh coach Tim Wilkinson said. "I feel that with her talent and enthusiasm the Edge will have a tremendously successful season."

CSKA, Marseille both in dark

BERLIN, Mar 2: CSKA Moscow and Marseille will have one thing in common when they meet on Wednesday in the European Cup. Neither knows what to expect of the Russians, reports Reuter.

If Marseille are in the dark about their opponents, CSKA have little idea about themselves after squad changes, chaotic preparation and no chance of a warm-up game.

The Russians chose to take on the French champions in Berlin because of wintry conditions in Moscow but bad weather caused a postponement of a weekend friendly

Zico not ready to bow to age

TOKYO, March 2: Former Brazilian star Zico, 40 Wednesday, says he knows no age in helping Japan become a world football power with the creation of a professional league in May, reports AFP.

"Just look at me and (Martina) Navratilova," Zico said Tuesday, referring to the Czech-born veteran American tennis star, 36. "Age has nothing to do with fine athletes."

Meanwhile, Ichihara's JEF United said Tuesday it had signed up top German striker Pierre Littbarski of Cologne for the inaugural J-League season while Japan set up their bid to host the 2002 World Cup although they have never reached the final knock-out phase of the premier football tournament.

liked with Tennis Borussia and forced them to do their training in a handball hall.

"We would have done better to stay at home," the club's manager Viktor Murasko grumbled.

The enigmatic CSKA side surprisingly dismissed European champions Barcelona in the second round of the competition but, after losing both their games so far in Group A of the semifinals, have virtually no chance of reaching the final.

Marseille, by contrast, have every hope of winning the group after taking three points but Belgian trainer Raymond Goethals has insisted his team must win both matches with CSKA. The return is in Marseille on March 17.

"Beating them twice would be the best way of sparing ourselves any nasty surprises," he said. "Because after that we're at home to Oslagov Rangers and I have to admit that the Scots worry me."

Goethals had a blow when Basile Boli pulled out with a knee injury. Since switching the big defender to sweeper earlier this year, Marseille had successfully shored up a defence which was shipping far too many goals.

But experienced international Bernard Casoni is back, after missing two matches with a broken thumb, to take his place.

German striker Rudi Voeiler is doubtful after badly bruising ribs in last week's 1-0 defeat to Monaco. "The pain's eased," he said after flying into Berlin on Monday. "I'll try to be fit for Wednesday but the chances are not particularly good."

Goethals had hoped to see CSKA in action in Berlin but wasted his trip when the match was called off and has had to be content with studying old video cassettes of them in action.

"I don't have any idea of their form," he said. "I know they have four or five new players but I don't know much about them."

CSKA were not giving away too many clues, handing Marseille a list of 46 players from which they will choose their side.

Trainer Gennadi Kostylev said his team had played just one match this year, an indoor game in the Russian Cup against a second division side.

"It was hardly a good test before playing Marseille," he said. "But unfortunately we don't have the means to go to Spain or Italy to prepare."

"Marseille are one of the best teams in Europe and it would be a real exploit to beat them. We don't have much chance of making the final ourselves but we can cause a few problems to the others."

CSKA have lost international keeper Dmitri Kharin, who was transferred to English club Chelsea.

PROBABLE TEAMS:

CSKA: Plotnikov, Gushin, Bystrov, Maluykov, Kolotovkin, Kolesnikov, Bushmanov, Antonovitch, Grishin, Mashkarin, Maatchuk, Minko, Sergeyev, Dubnik, Fayzullin.

MARSEILLE: Fabien Barthez; Jocelyn Angloma, Marcel Desailly, Bernard Casoni, Eric Di Meo; Didier Deschamps, Franck Sauze, Jean-Jacques Eydelie, Abedi Pele; Alen Boksic, Rudi Voeiler or Igor Dobrovolski.

Jahangir laid low by bad back

CARDIFF, Mar 2: Former world champion Jahangir Khan's squash comeback received a major setback on Monday when he withdrew from the Spanish Open, due to start in Madrid on Wednesday, with a back injury, reports Reuter.

The 29-year-old Pakistani, sidelined for most of last year with back trouble, slipped to 26th in the world but had begun to move back up the rankings after reaching the quarter-finals of the recent Welsh Classic in Cardiff.

His late withdrawal from the Spanish Open means he will receive a zero ranking score and could plunge back out of the top 20.

Cameroon move up

YAOUNDE, Cameroon, Mar 2: Cameroon became the ninth and final nation to advance to the second round of African qualifying for the 1994 World Cup when they played a scoreless tie Monday night against Zaïre, reports AP.

Cameroon (2-0-2) won Group B with six points and joined Algeria, Egypt, Guinea, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Senegal and Zambia in the second round.

The nations will be divided into groups of three during a draw Thursday at Sydney, Australia, site of the FIFA World Youth Championship. The three second-round winners advance to the World Cup finals, scheduled for nine US cities from June 17-July 17, 1994.

Cameroon was virtually assured of advancing following a scoreless tie against Swaziland (1-1-1) on Jan 17. Cameroon would have had to lose in order for Swaziland to have a chance to tie if they played their postponed match against Zaïre.

Don't write US off, says coach

MELBOURNE, Mar 2: US coach Bobbie Howe had a warning Tuesday for any side that treats the United States as a pushover in the World Youth Soccer Championship, reports AP.

The former West Ham star said his team of underdogs had come to Australia with the aim of reaching the quarter-finals.

"If any team in this group thinks we're going to be pushovers, they will have to think again," Howe said. "We're very fit, extremely competitive, not tactically naive, and I think quite skillful."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Low-toned fello?

6 Popular pops

11 Profession

12 Sidesteps

14 Squirrel's munchies

15 Comment

16 Beavers' construction

17 Florist's sale

19 King (Fr.)

20 Author Kingsley

22 Never, in Bonn

23 Make pottery

24 Holy city

26 — Antilles

28 Whatever amount

30 Crafty

31 Recovers

35 "Euca-lyptiva"

39 Oklahoma city

40 Fine, to astronauts

DOWN

1 Waxed

2 Infinitesimal

3 Knightly address

4 Remit

5 Mork's mentor

6 Goes at full speed

7 Pizzeria fixture

8 Moon vehicle

9 Ark park?

10 Back-hand, e.g.

11 Woman of the

13 Killy, for one

18 Slalom maneuver

21 Burn with boiling water

23 Marshy area

25 Cross-word blackbird

27 Wapiti

29 One who longs

31 Do a double-take

32 Cat, goat or rabbit

33 Boxer Sonny

34 Sauce source

36 Neat —

37 Citric, in a way

38 Stop on —

41 Ruble fraction

44 Pontiff

45 — model

48 Yank

50 Blake

Solution time: 28 mins.

LAPAZ BOB LAP
OLLIE EVE ALY
PLUMB SENATOR
MERLIN VINE
JAM AID BANGS
AGES VENTAL
BOTTLE IRONED
TWAUNG DEM WAG
ARIZ SURETY
PARAGON SWOOP
ETE AMI TORSO
DHS YET ASKED

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CRYPTOQUIP

YZTAIC'R FJFZHTRF HQIRR,
T Y TSA, TR FJHFQQFSM
A Z PPU M X F Z IUC.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: FIANCED BACHELOR IS BOTH FOOTLOOSE AND FINCEE-FREE.

Today's Cryptquip clue: Y equals F

The Cryptquip 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.