

Karachi Gymkhana outplay MSC

Sports Reporter



The visiting Karachi Airport Gymkhana outplayed Navana league runners-up Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club by seven wickets in an exhibition match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Chasing 206 for victory the visitors exhibited exemplary class and experience in posting 209 for only three wickets with more than six overs to spare.

In a rather inconsequential, mawkish exercise in the name of entertainment, Mohammedans took the field like a lady kid drawn out of the bed more out of vexation by the harping of a tireless, pitiless father on the same note of 'early to bed early to rise ...' than by the seductive, rhythmic coaxing of Olivia Newton John for a physical work out.

Only six of their original players — skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Azhar Hossain Shantu, Harunur Rashid Liton, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Abu Hamid Piyal and Zakir Hossain — were available while five others had to be drafted from other teams — three from Uddity and one each from the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) and Kalabagan Kirta Chakra.

For Naimur Rahman Durjoy, Raimur Rashid Rahul and Al-Shahriar Rokan — Uddity's three BKSP products, the match proved to be a fine exposure with Rokan making most among the trio. He scored a polished 62, the second highest score of the match, after Aminul Islam Bulbul's 79 as Mohammedans sent in to bat, managed 205 for nine from their quota of 45 overs.

Mohammedans got off to a slow start as Airport Gymkhana skipper Rashid Khan and Mohammad Javed kept openers Azhar Hossain Shantu and Harun-ur-Rashid Liton under tight leash.

Rashid, one of the members of Pakistan's 1983 World Cup team, appeared to have slowed down but succeeded in leaving both batsmen with little room for stroke play with well directed inswingers.

Liton was the first to go, run out by members of an outfit that, though not very athletic, certainly impressed with their neat pick ups and powerful, accurate throws right on to the top of the balls.

Shantu failed, too, to reach the double figures with former Pakistani Test batsman Rizwan-Uz-Zaman accepting the catch off left-arm spinner Zahid Ahmad.

Al-Shahriar Rokan, already at the crease at the fall of Liton's wicket, then lost skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu, with Zahid again doing the damage, this time casting the captain of the Bangladesh national team for 12.

At 38 for three Mohammedans looked set to have badly messed up the spirit of an exhibition match.

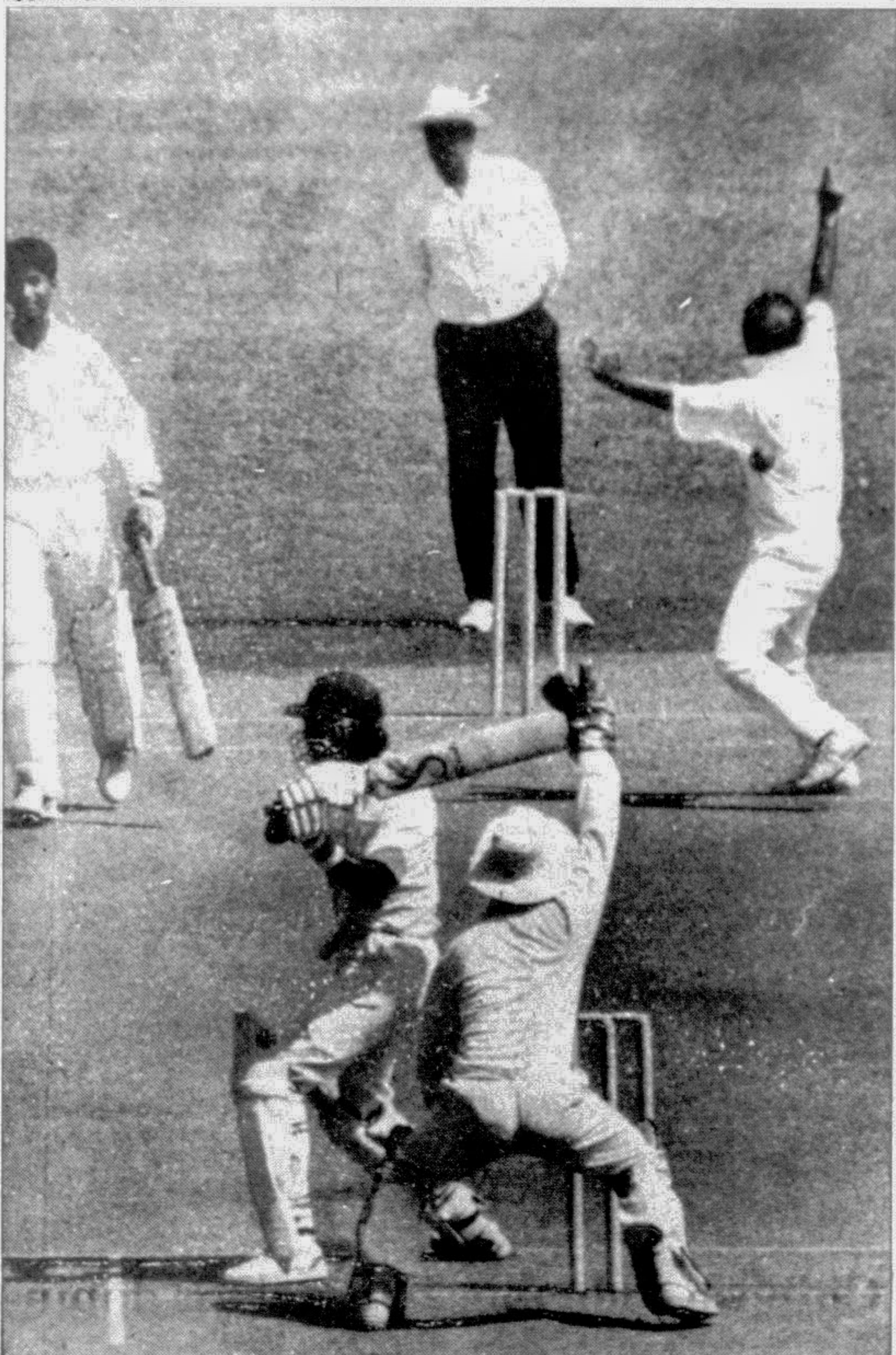
But Rokan then teamed up with Aminul Islam Bulbul to conjure up a delightful exhibition of batsmanship. The youthful pair added 112 runs in 23.2 overs before Rokan left, well caught by Rizwan again off Shahabuddin, another slow left-arm for a very well compiled 62. The young lad played 111 balls and hit three fours with the bulk of his runs coming from zealous running between the wickets.

Aminul Islam Bulbul, sadly out of form almost throughout the 1992-93 domestic cricket season, found his touch at long last. Dancing down the pitch whenever the Pakistani spinners tossed the ball up and showing no signs of lethargy to lean back and crack the ball

square when the same man bowled short and gave him the width. Bulbul notched up the top score of the match. His 79, off 92 balls and embellished with five boundaries, came to an end when Amir Hanif took his airy stroke against off-spinner Zafar Ahmad.

studded with five fours. A low delivery from Rahul cut short Rizwan's blitzkrieg but Amir Hanif, one of the members of the Pak team in the aborted SAARC cricket tournament last December, joined Rashid at the wicket and the assault went on un-

Ahmad	7
Liton run out	2
Rokon c R Zaman b Shahabuddin	62
Nannu b Zahid Ahmad	12
Bulbul c Amir Hanif b Zafar Ahmad	79
Piyal b Zafar Ahmad	11
Rahul run out	4



HOW'S THAT An appeal for lbw against Azhar Hossain Shantu, the bespectacled Mohammedan opening batsman, after a Mohammad Javed delivery hit him on the pad during the match against Karachi Airport Gymkhana at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The non-striker is Al Shahriar Rokan, whose services were hired for the day. Rokan, who plays for Uddity, went on to score 62.

Piyal, a promising bat came at the wicket in not the best of the situation with 'hit' being the only order of the moment. He made 11 and the mad rush for runs saw the local team muster only 16 runs for the loss of five more wickets. At the end of the stipulated quota of 45 overs Mohammedans collected 205 for nine with extras amounting to 17.

Katsar Rashid, the dashing right-hander tipped by skipper Rashid Khan as one of the international prospects in his side, opened the Gymkhana innings with Test veteran Rizwan.

Saiful, Mohammedan's borrowed pacesman from GMCC and regarded as the most effective of the local quickies bowled the first over a maiden to gladden the hearts of the patriotic partisan supporters in the stands.

Rizwan, who had a hundred on this ground against a Bangladeshi selection a few years back, made a mockery of the quiet post-prandial prelude as he launched a terrific assault in the second over with Rashid, too, left not far behind in taking the shine off the new ball.

Runs came off the reel, 60 off 10 overs to be precise, as Rizwan rarely moved from his stance to crack 34 of 36 balls,

abated. Rashid left for 51, stumped by Piyal off Durjoy. He hit three fours and a sixer. Hanif was dismissed by the same combination but not before cracking 47 off just 52 balls with the help of two fours and a sixer.

Mohammad Javed with 33 not out off 37 balls and Zahid with 28 not out made light work of the local challenge as the score board showed 209 for three wickets in 38.4 overs.

Durjoy bagged two wickets for 34 runs while Rahul took one for 27 among the toiling Mohammedan bowlers.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman was introduced to the players before the start of the match. The Pakistani team manager exchanged mementos with Mohammedan skipper Nannu as a token of friendship.

The visitors next play the BCCB President's XI in Sylhet on Thursday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the 45-overs-a-side first exhibition match between Karachi Airport Gymkhana cricket club and Mohammedan Sporting Club played at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedan SC: Shantu c R Zaman b Zahid

Saiful run out 1
Piyal c R Zaman b Zafar Ahmad 7
Durjoy not out 1
Zakir not out 2
Extras: (lb-4, w-11, nb-2) 17
Total: (for nine wickets, 45 overs) 205

Fall of wickets: 1-2: 2-25; 3-38; 4-150; 5-189; 6-189; 7-190; 8-199; 9-201.

Bowling: O M R W
Rashid Khan 7 1 23 0
Javed 6 1 22 0
Zahid Ahmad 9 0 36 2
Amir Hanif 5 1 25 0
Tahir Nisar 4 0 27 0
Shahabuddin 9 0 45 1
Zafar Ahmad 5 0 23 0

AIRPORT GYMKHANA: Katsar Rashid c Piyal b Durjoy 51
R Zaman b Rahul 34
Amir Hanif st Piyal b Durjoy 47
M Javed not out 33
Zahid Ahmad not out 28
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-8, nb-2) 16
Total: (for three wickets, 38.4 overs) 209

Fall of wickets: 1-60; 2-132; 3-150

Bowling: O M R W
Saiful 9 1 46 0
Zakir 3 0 18 0
Shantu 7 0 24 0
Rahul 4 0 27 1
Rokon 3 0 23 0
Durjoy 7 0 34 2
Bulbul 2 0 12 0
Piyal 2.4 0 15 0
Liton 1 0 4 0

Pakistan 186 for nine

Sports Reporter

Pakistan, sent in to bat, had made 186 for the loss of nine wickets in 50 overs in the fourth one-day international against the West Indies at Kingstown, St Vincent, when reports last came in late last night.

Number five batsman Basil All topscored with 60 before being bowled by Courtenay Walsh.

Earlier, Amir Sohail (29) and Inzamamul Haq (17) added 42 runs for the second wicket after opener Rameez Raja fell leg before to Ian Bishop for only two in the third over of the innings.

Asif Mujtaba made 23 and Javed Miandad 19 while wicketkeeper Rashid Latif remained unbeaten on 18.

Walsh was the pick of the West Indian bowlers taking two wickets. Off-spinner Carl Hooper also took two wickets while Bishop, Ambrose and Simmons got one each. Waqar Younis and Ahsan Rahman, the pacemen, were both run out.

Needing 187 to win West Indies were 14 for the loss of two wickets after seven overs. Brian Lara was caught behind by Rashid Latif off the bowling of Waqar Younis for five while Desmond Haynes was trapped leg before wicket by Wasim Akram for six.

A full house!

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, Mar 30: Hundreds of people on this Caribbean island have been shut out of Tuesday's international cricket one-day series between Pakistan and the West Indies, reports AP.

The match is the biggest held in this banana-producing, former British territory in 12 years, and hotels are full.

Autograph-seekers, their interest increased following televised games of the teams last week in Jamaica and Trinidad, flagged down players of both teams before and after practice Monday.

The cricket fever only feeds the anger of islanders, some of whom have complained that only about a third of the tickets were openly available for purchase.

One upset cricket fan, Jacqueline Ross, accused the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Cricket Association of reserving large blocks of the US \$18.50 seats for friends from overseas.

The association confirmed that all seats had been sold.

The association president, Lennox John, has denied the accusation that friends benefited from the ticket shortage. He acknowledged, however, that the association made a deliberate decision to ensure that people who attend cricket matches regularly were not disappointed.

NSW Sheffield Shield champs

SYDNEY, Mar 30: New South Wales thrashed Queensland by eight wickets to win Australia's Sheffield Shield for a record 41st time in the final at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Final scores were New South Wales (NSW) 341 and 46 for two, while Queensland has 311 and 75. The Queensland team, known as the Maroons, are still chasing their first Shield win after 61 seasons of trying.

NSW finished top of the table with 34 points from five outright victories and two first innings wins, while Queensland were second on 26 from three outright victories and four first innings wins.

Tuesday's win was the fourth outright victory in a row for NSW after the team, known as the blues, beat England A by 10 wickets, South Australia by nine wickets and Victoria by 58 runs in the lead up to the final.

NSW captain Phil Emery said he felt sorry for the Maroons, who carry the burden of being losers for another year. "The last couple of years we have experienced probably what you are experiencing now, so commiserations to Queensland," he said.

"To my guys, all I can say is I am very proud to be here accepting this and it's an honour to play with these guys, let alone captain them," Emery said.

Queensland captain Dirk Wellham said the turning point of the match was Greg Matthews' innings of 78 in 434 minutes which kept the Maroon pace attack at bay, and gave NSW enough time to be able to at least draw the game.

Army b'ball

RANGPUR, Mar 30: The annual basketball championship of the Bangladesh Army will start at the Rangpur Cantonment from tomorrow, an ISIR press release said. Twelve teams will take part in the robin league matches.



Mohammedan Sporting Club skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu receiving the official crest of the Karachi Airport Gymkhana Club from the team manager Salimullah prior to the start of the exhibition match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

England's hopes rests on Wright



PARIS, Mar 30: Never have the hopes of injury-plagued England rested so squarely on the shoulders of controversial striker Ian Wright than in their World Cup qualifier against Turkey in Izmir on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Pressure has mounted for the 29-year-old to score his first international goal and set England firmly on course for the World Cup finals in the United States next year.

A hip injury for Les Ferdinand in training on Monday created another headache for England manager Graham Taylor.

"At this stage, it is hard to say whether he will play, but we will just have to see how Ferdinand is on the run-up to the match," said Taylor.

With David Hirst short of match fitness, Alan Shearer, Alan Smith, and new boy Paul

Warhurst injured, and John Barnes' confidence dented by Wembley boo-boys, good form from Wright is vital. David Batty is also a doubt.

The memory of two goalless draws in England's last visits to Izmir would be wiped away by the goal Wright badly wants. His 51 goals in 70 appearances for Arsenal count for nothing on the international stage.

And a hero's performance in his eight appearances would silence the media critics who have catalogued his brushes with authority.

"Some people will have you believe I am some sort of nutcase," Wright has said.

He served a suspension in January when television revealed he punched Tottenham's David Howell, and a further caution could rule him out of a crucial match as Arsenal go for the FA League Cup double.

"I hope I don't lose my competitive edge," he said.

Had Wright been fit and scored in the 6-0 defeat of San Marino, it would have relieved

the pressure to score in this clash.

Thankfully a fully fit Paul Gascoigne, who disappointed in San Marino, has lost weight, and possibly recovered from the criticism in the Italian press for being sent off and burping into a reporter's microphone.

Taylor made a special morale-boosting journey to Italy last week, and found "Gazza" in high spirits. Andy Sinton comes in at left back in the absence of Tony Dorigo and Stuart Pearce.

WALES UPHILL TASK

The withdrawal of Portsmouth's Kit Symons from Wales squad to face Belgium in Cardiff with an ankle injury is, meanwhile, a blow to manager Terry Yorath.

He has dubbed this match a do-or-die battle and has tried to motivate his older players by saying: "Top professionals who play for their countries have an incomplete career if they do not appear in a World Cup finals tournament."

And though they have world class players such as Neville Southall, Ian Rush, Mark Hughes, Dean Saunders, Gary Speed and Ryan Giggs in the squad, it is the last chance for some of those players to qualify.

Yorath himself played 50 times for Wales but never appeared in a World Cup and he would dearly love to at least appear as manager.

One player who has the ability to win a match on his own, Ryan Giggs, is set to start his first ever game for Wales.

Wales have the task of halting Belgium's six consecutive victories, and only maximum points would keep their hopes alive.

Yorath's contract expires in November and he has said whether it will be renewed or whether he wants to stay could depend on the outcome of this match.

"If we don't win, there is little chance of qualifying. Wales have come a long way, but we really need that success to keep the momentum going."

SEVERYNS RECALLED

Antwerp striker Francis Severyns, Belgium's second highest scorer at the moment, gets his first cap since February 1992 in place of the injured Marc Nilis of Anderlecht, but is less than happy.

"I would have loved to make my return in another way and I would have been happier if coach Paul van Himst had called me by last Monday. I

cannot understand the initial contempt for me by the selector," said Severyns.

Striker Enzo Scifo goes into this match having said he will probably leave Torino at the end of the season despite two years of his contract still to run.

Belgium are virtually certain of qualifying for the finals. Their 3-0 victory in Cyprus last month was their 200th win in the country's history, but they will have to beware of overconfidence against Wales.

Jack Charlton leads his Eire side out against Northern Ireland in Dublin aiming to consolidate their position in Group 3 after this derby match.

In second spot, just above their opponents, a victory would continue to improve their prospects and further enhance their reputation since reaching the quarter-finals in 1990.

Switzerland, who host



GRAHAM TAYLOR

Portugal, have an excellent chance of making their first World Cup finals for 17 years. Star striker Stephane Chapuisat is mainly responsible for their revival.

In dire need of a sponsor to boost wages to players, their success has put them down the road towards better financial backing.

Group 5 leaders Greece travel to Hungary and have a 100 per cent record, having won three games and drawn one. Admittedly their only away match so far was in Cyprus, and they only scraped through 1-0.

Further encouragement for Hungary was the goalless draw in the first match between the sides in Greece last November.

High scoring Spain, with 10 goals in their last two matches, travel to Denmark, who have only managed one victory of their four games so far and are desperate to rediscover the form which won them the European Championship last year.

Danes desperately need a win



COPENHAGEN, Mar 30: European champions Denmark are set to throw traditional caution aside on Wednesday in a match against Spain they need desperately to win to stay in the running for the 1994 World Cup finals, reports Reuters.

"It is a do or die game which must be won. And we must prove that we can go on the offensive and control events," said inspirational attacker Flemming Povlsen.

With five points in four matches against qualifying Group Three leader Spain's nine from six, the Danes re-align their backs against the wall.

"It is not good enough to hope for goals on the break as we did in the European finals. To have a chance to win we must attack all the time and create our own scoring opportunities," said Povlsen.

The counter-attacking tactics served Denmark well in the European Championship in Sweden last year when they surprised the world by beating the Netherlands in the semi-finals and Germany in the final.

But the Spaniards are adept at playing a tight defensive game and would probably be happy with a draw.

Borussia Dortmund striker Povlsen was injured when Denmark showed flashes of their best form against South American champions Argentina in Buenos Aires last month, despite the eventual defeat in a penalty shoot-out.

But Povlsen said he was certain to have recovered by kickoff-time on Wednesday from a more recent injury in the German league last Saturday which required three stitches in his heel.

Denmark are without injured Liverpool defender Torben Piechnik, European Championship midfielder heroes Henrik Larsen and John Jensen, from Aston Villa and Arsenal, are expected to play.

Spain's manager Javier Clemente has surprisingly omitted veteran Real Madrid attacking midfielder Michael from his squad. Barcelona's Jose Bakero is out with an ankle injury.

The pitch at the refurbished national 40,500-seater Parken Stadium could play a key role. It has been re-laid due to draining problems and faces its first test.

TEAMS

DENMARK: Peter Schmeichel, Mogens Krogh, Lars Olsen, Marc Rieper, Jakob Kjeldbjerg, Jakob Fris-

Hansen, Kim Vilfort, Brian Steen Nielsen, John Jensen, Henrik Larsen, Bjarne Goldback, Stig Tofting, Brian Laudrup, Lars Elstrup, Mark Strudal, Flemming Povlsen.

SPAIN: Andoni Zubizarreta, Julen Lopetegui, Rafael Alkorta, Albert Ferrer, Toni Munoz, Mikel Lasa, Fernando Giner, Cristobal Parralo, Fernando Hierro, Guillermo Anor, Juan Guiteux, Josep Guardiola, Miguel Nadal, Aldolfo Aldana, Claudio Barragán, Julien Guerrero, Altar Beguiristain, Rullo Salinas.

Marseille may sign Scifo

MARSEILLE, France, Mar 30: French champions Marseille said on Monday they are on the brink of signing Belgian midfielder Enzo Scifo from Torino for next season, reports Reuters.

"Unless there is a dramatic development, Scifo will be a Marseille player next season," the club's vice-president Jean-Louis Leveaux told reporters.

Scifo is under contract with his Italian club until 1994 but said recently he would welcome a return to the French league.

The gifted Belgian is greatly admired in France where he spent three seasons with Bordeaux and Auxerre.

Mymensingh to replace Comilla as zonal host

Sports Reporter

The nineteenth Gold Leaf national cricket championship will begin simultaneously in seven zones across the country from April 5.

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) yesterday announced the venues for the different zones.

Group A matches will be played at the Sylhet Stadium. Mymensingh Stadium will stage the Group B matches instead of the Comilla Stadium as announced earlier. Group C matches will be played at the Jessore Stadium. The Jhenidah Stadium will be the venue for Group D. Khulna Stadium will hold the Group E matches, Thakurgaon the Group F matches while all the matches of the Services Group will be played in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, the BCCB yesterday announced the fixture for Second Division super league play-off matches of the Y group.

Dhaka Wanderers Club will play Bangladesh Boys Club at the Mirpur Pallabi ground on April 2.

Ajax SC will take on Bangladesh Boys at the same venue on April 3.



Players of the visiting Karachi Airport Gymkhana Club share a moment with the photographers just before the start of the exhibition match against Dhaka Premier Division league runners-up Dhaka Mohammedans at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo