

Robin Smith of England gives Australia's Steve Waugh a new lease of life as the apparently easy catch at the close catching position was floored by the England fieldsmen during the first Ashes Test at Old Trafford, Manchester on June 6. Australia won the Test by 179 runs. — AFP photo

Australia's auspicious start

MANCHESTER, June 7: Leg-spinner Shane Warne and paceman Merv Hughes shared eight wickets as Australia triumphed by 179 runs over England in the first Ashes Test at Old Trafford today, reports Reuter.



WARNE... man of match

Warne captured four for 86 and Hughes took four for 92 as England, in pursuit of an unlikely target of 512 to win, were all out for 332 with 35 minutes remaining on the fifth and last day.

Man-of-the-match Warne, who had a haul of eight for 137 in the game, also held a brilliant, diving catch at backward short leg of Hughes's bowling to end a stubborn innings of 25 by tailender Andrew Caddick that delayed Australia's march to victory.

Captain Graham Gooch had led England's battle for a draw with a defiant 133, his 310-minute effort ending when he was given out handled the ball. Gooch's downfall — he is only the fifth player in Test cricket history to be dismissed in that unusual fashion — set off a slump in which four wickets fell for 37, while Hughes subsequently broke down England's late resistance.

The second Test in the six-match series starts at Lord's on June 17. Warne, playing in his 12th Test, enhanced the reputation he gained after match-winning performances against West Indies and New Zealand during the 1992-93 season. The Victorian wrist spinner had a marathon spell of 37 overs on the last day in which he added the wickets of Robin

Smith, Alec Stewart and Chris Lewis to that of opener Michael Atherton, whom he dismissed on Sunday. Hughes, having dispatched Mike Gatting with the last ball of the fourth day, produced a characteristically determined and hostile effort in which he removed Graeme Hick before returning in the final session to wrap up the innings.

Australia were indebted to the resilience of Warne and Hughes during a match in which their leading strike bowler, Craig McDermott, did not take a wicket.

McDermott had a long spell, sharing the attack with Warne, when England resumed at their overnight 133 for two, but he found Gooch in unyielding mood. England's captain had cast off his instinctive attacking mood of the previous evening for a more cautious approach, but he lost Smith at 171 when the Hampshire batsman, on 18, played forward defensively at Warne and saw the ball spin back on to his stumps.

Gooch, having reached his 18th Test Century, and Hick ended a relatively successful morning for England with their score on 197 for three at lunch. Gooch and Hick had put on 52 for the fourth wicket when the England skipper played a ball from Hughes defensively down into his crease and it bounced up behind him.

"Sensing the ball was going to drop onto his stumps, Gooch knocked it away with his right hand. Umpire Dickie Bird had little hesitation in upholding the Australians' appeal, and Gooch ended after facing 247 balls and hitting two sixes and 21 fours.

Gooch became the first England player dismissed handled the ball. The last time it happened in a Test, West Indies opener Desmond Haynes was the victim during the 1983 series in India. Gooch's downfall was the start of a slump in which England subsided from 223 for three to 260 for seven.

Hick (22) edged Hughes to wicketkeeper Ian Healy, who then caught Stewart (11) as he pushed forward to a leg break from Warne, while left-arm paceman Brendon Julian trapped Phillip DeFreitas lbw for seven.

England, 273 for seven at tea, resisted staunchly after the break, with Lewis staying 96 minutes for 43 runs until edging Warne to slip. Caddick batted bravely against Hughes, who ensured Australia were not to be denied

by seizing the last two wickets in nine deliveries. **SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard on the final day of the first cricket Test between England and Australia at Old Trafford today: **AUSTRALIA:** First Innings 289 (M Taylor 124, M Slater 58; P Such 6-67). **ENGLAND:** First Innings 210 (G Gooch 65, S Warne 4-51, M



GOOCH... sad demise

Hughes 4-59). **AUSTRALIA:** Second Innings 432-5 declared (I Healy 102 not out, D Boon 93, S Waugh 78 not out, M Waugh 64). **ENGLAND:** Second Innings (overnight 133-2) G Gooch handled the ball 133 M Atherton c Taylor b Warne 25 M Gatting b H Hughes 23 R Smith b Warne 18 G Hick c Healy b Hughes 22 A Stewart c Healy b Warne 11 C Lewis c Taylor b Warne 43 P DeFreitas lbw b Julian 7 A Caddick c Warne b Hughes 25 P Such c Border b Hughes 9 P Tufnell not out 0 Extras: (lb-11, w-1, nb-4) 16 Total: 332

Fall of wickets: 1-73; 2-133; 3-171; 4-223; 5-230; 6-238; 7-260; 8-299; 9-331. **Bowling:** O M R W McDermott 30 9 76 0 Hughes 27.2 4 92 4 Warne 49 26 86 4 Julian 14 1 67 1 **Result: Australia won by 179 runs** Second Test: Lord's, June 17-21

Third Test: Trent Bridge, July 1-6

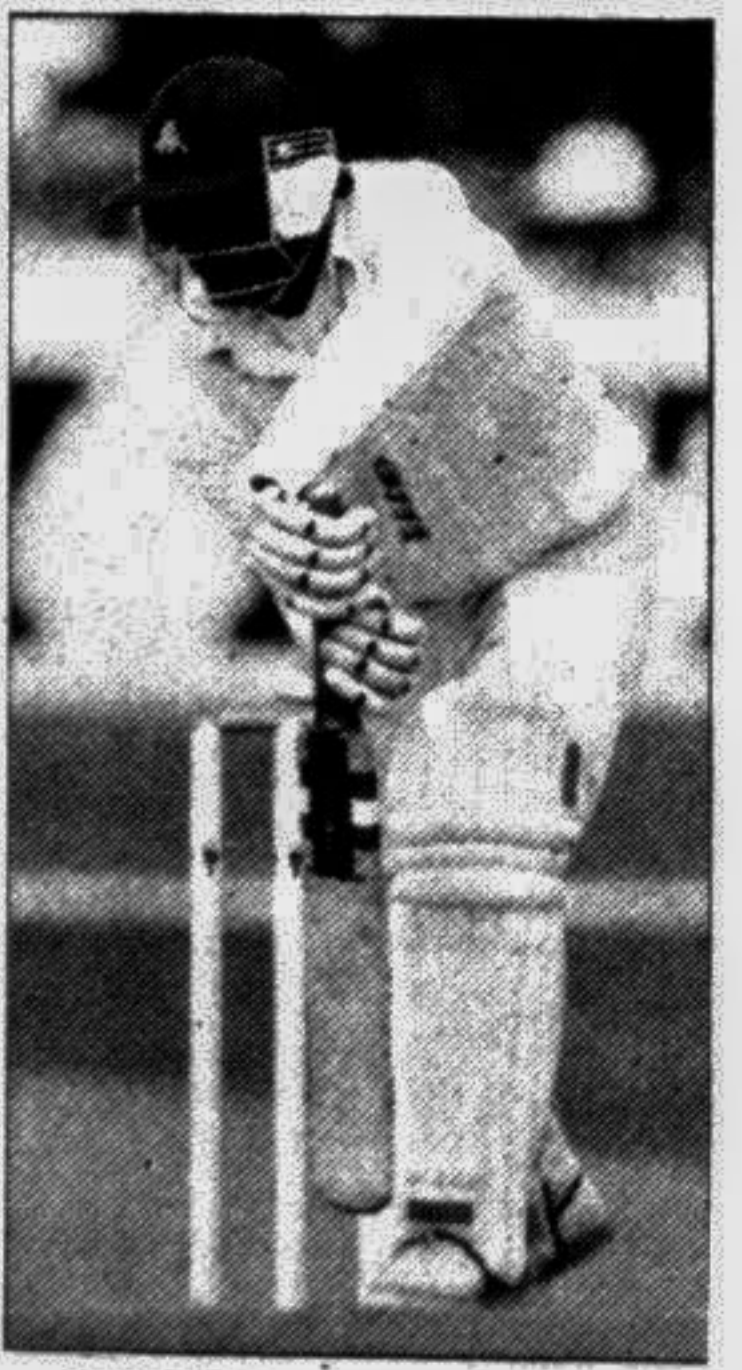
Fourth Test: Headingley, July 22-26

Fifth Test: Edgbaston, August 5-9

Sixth Test: The Oval, August 19-23

hew Keech kept cool as they added 38 in 23 balls to take the side to the verge of victory. The result was bad luck on Derbyshire opener Peter Bowler, whose 104 not out was his first league century. Kent achieved an emphatic seven-wicket win over Gloucestershire at Tunbridge Wells, with Neil Taylor (80) and West Indian all-rounder Carl Hooper (70 not out) sharing a 147-run partnership.

Paul Taylor's tight last over enabled Northamptonshire to earn an unlikely tie with Worcestershire at Northampton. Worcestershire needed just four to reach their 169 target with four wickets left at the start of Taylor's over. But he conceded just two singles and also claimed two wickets before Richard Illingworth managed just one run to bring the scores level. Steve Barwick took four for 27 and Viv Richards three for 21 to steer Gloucestershire to their first league win of the season at Middlesbrough where Yorkshire crashed by 25 runs. Somerset's Richard Hadden laid the foundation of a 22 runs win over Essex at Chelmsford with a fine 89 and David Gower, with a 76-ball 59, helped Hampshire to a comfortable eight wickets success against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge.



MARK RAMPRAKASH

Ramprakash steals the show

LONDON, June 7: Mark Ramprakash stole the show as Sunday league champions Middlesex snatched an exciting two-wicket victory over Derbyshire at Lord's, reports Reuter.

Ramprakash hit 84 in 108 balls to help his side reach the target of 241 with seven balls to spare. Derbyshire's Devon Malcolm made it uncomfortable for the hosts as he claimed three wickets in seven balls, leaving Middlesex 43 short with three wickets left.

Richard Johnson and Mat PSG play Nantes in French Cup final

PARIS, June 7: Paris St Germain beat Second Division Laval 1-0 on Sunday to reach the French Cup final, reports Reuter.

The Paris club dominated most of the match but had to wait until the 60th minute to move in front through a Vincent Guerin goal.

Paris play Nantes, 1-0 semi-final winners over St Etienne, in the final next Saturday. Nicolas Ouedec scored for Nantes nine minutes from time.

After 55 years ...

ROME, June 7: For the first time in 55 years, Fiorentina will play in the Italian Second Division next season, reports Reuter.

The Florence Club, winners of the Italian league title in 1956 and 1969, were relegated on the last day of the season on Sunday despite running out 6-2 winners at home to Foggia.

Ancona and Pescara have also been demoted to the Second Division and Brescia and Udinese face a relegation playoff.

Fiorentina's relegation came as a severe shock to the club and its supporters.

Disgruntled fans threw bottles, coins, cans and other objects at the coach carrying the Fiorentina team after Sunday's game.

Police guarded the homes of players and officials overnight. Fiorentina's owner, cinema tycoon Mario Cecchi Gori, spent nearly 20 million US dollars last year hiring international talents such as German Stefan Effenberg and Dane Brian Laudrup.

But the club's troubles started in January when coach "Gigi" Radice was sacked after a 1-0 home loss to Atalanta. Fiorentina were joint fourth in the league table at the time.

Aldo Agropoli, a former Fiorentina coach, replaced Radice but was axed in April as the club plunged from bad to worse, winning only three league games in five months.

Brescia earned the last gasp relegation playoff with Udinese by beating Sampdoria 3-1, despite playing for almost an hour with only 10 men.

Sampdoria's defeat ended their hopes of gaining a UEFA Cup place next season.

Italy's four UEFA Cup representatives will be Internazionale, Juventus, Lazio and Cagliari.

Rioting marks last weekend of Serie A

ROME, June 7: Rioting marred the final weekend of the Italian First Division season on Sunday with two separate outbreaks of hooliganism reported, reports Reuter.

Television reports said some 50 people were hurt after fans of rival clubs AC Milan and Sampdoria battled for an hour beside a railway line near the northern town of Alessandria.

Trouble broke out when a special train carrying Milan fans to a match in Genoa was forced to stop alongside another train taking Sampdoria fans from the northern port to Brescia.

Pilm shot by an amateur cameraman showed fans fighting in the fields beside the line, with stones and wooden poles hurled. Television reports said the supporters picked up tools left by railway workers and used them in the clashes.

Around 50 people were detained by police. None of those injured were reported to be in a serious condition.

State television also reported that fans went on the rampage in Florence after local club Fiorentina were relegated, ending a 54-year unbroken run in the top flight.

The reports said fans hurled stones and bottles at the police and set a car on fire outside Florence's Stadio Comunale.

Police replied by firing rounds of tear gas and baton-charging the angry fans.

Iran threatens to boycott Games

TEHRAN, June 7: A top sports official has warned Iranian athletes could boycott the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta "if the hostile stance of the United States toward Iran persists," reports AFP.

"There are still several years left for these Games, and the world situation may change by then," physical education chief Hassan Ghafurifard told the Iranian news agency IRNA.

But "if the US position continues to be as it is, I don't think relations will ever be established with that country," and Iran will not take part in the Atlanta Olympics, he said.

Turning to boxing, Ghafurifard praised former heavy-weight champion Muhammad Ali who last month visited Iran.

"At a time that some people in Iran were adopting foreign names, he adopted the name of Muhammad Ali and gave up several world titles and millions of dollars for the sake of Islam," he said.

Ghafurifard dismissed a complaint from FIFA that Iranian football fans had used firecrackers, saying it was only natural for 120,000 supporters packed in a stadium to let off steam. "The youth have their own enthusiasm and joy, and I think FIFA is showing too much sensitivity, in my opinion, our sport environment is one of the healthiest and cleanest in the world."



A supine Sergi Bruguera delves deep into the reserves of satisfaction immediately after dethroning top favourite Jim Courier in the final of the French Open at Roland Garros on Sunday. The Spaniard clinched the five-setter to have the first Grand Slam of his life. — Star TV photo

Graf may pull out of Wimbledon

PARIS, June 7: Newly crowned French Open women's champion Steffi Graf played her Paris semifinal and final with pain-killing injections and may have to pull out of Wimbledon because of a foot injury, medical officials said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Graf, defending champion and four times a winner at Wimbledon, delayed her planned departure to London on Monday to have further tests on the foot.

Doctors at the Paris tournament said she may have an Achilles tendon problem or a stress fracture of the right foot, an injury which would almost certainly stop her playing at Wimbledon, which starts in three weeks' time.

They said the German, whose victory in Saturday's women's final over American Mary Joe Fernandez took her past Monica Seles to the top of the world rankings, hurt her foot near the end of her quarter-final with American Jennifer Capriati.

Graf played her semifinal against fellow-German Anke Huber with a pain-killing injection but complained she had no sensation in the foot.

A smaller dose was administered for the final against Fernandez which she won in a tight three-setter.

If Graf does pull out, Wimbledon may not see either of the French Open singles

champions as the winner of the men's final Sergi Bruguera of Spain has still not decided whether to take part. Bruguera is an out-and-out clay court player who said after his victory over defending champion Jim Courier of the United States that he had dreamed of nothing other than



STEFFI GRAF

winning in Paris since he was a boy of six. The attacking demands of grass are alien to his solid baseline game.

The Spaniard has won only one match in two Wimbledon appearances and said at his

news conference after the final that he had still not decided whether he would even enter a tournament he skipped both in 1991 and 1992.

Since Bjorn Borg of Sweden won both the French and Wimbledon titles in 1980, no man has successfully been able to make the sudden adjustment from clay to grass.

Bruguera's win in Paris underlined the difficulties attacking players have against the baseline brigade on clay.

Of the eight quarter-finalists in the men's singles, there were only two serve-and-volleyers, world number one Pete Sampras of the United States and Sweden's Stefan Edberg.

Neither reached the semifinals. Sampras went down in four sets to Bruguera and Edberg fared no better against the rising star of the circuit, 18-year-old Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev.

If teenagers are coming into their own in the men's game, the focus is on a pre-teenager in the women's.

The junior title in Paris went to 12-year-old Swiss prodigy Martina Hingis with a victory over Belgium's Laurence Courtois, who is five years older, in Sunday's final.

Hingis, who is of Czech origin, became the youngest junior champion ever at the tournament and looks set to follow in the path trodden before her by those other precocious talents Graf, Monica Seles and Capriati.

Bruguera jumps six places up

MONACO, June 7: French Open champions Sergi Bruguera of Spain moved up to fifth place from 11th in the men's rankings issued by the ATP tour on Monday after his victory over American Jim Courier in Sunday's final in Paris, reports Reuter.

Leading rankings: 1. Pete Sampras (USA) 3,800 points 2. Jim Courier (USA) 3,385 3. Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 3,061

4. Boris Becker (Germany) 2,577 5. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 2,550 6. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 2,431

7. Ivan Lendl (USA) 2,262 8. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine) 2,017 9. Michael Stich (Germany) 1,982

10. Petr Korda (Czech Republic) 1,946 11. Michael Chang (USA) 1,925 12. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) 1,855

13. Andre Agassi (USA) 1,692 14. Karel Novacek (Czech Republic) 1,665 15. Thomas Muster (Austria) 1,576

16. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) 1,549 17. Guy Forget (France) 1,468

18. Maliwa Washington (USA) 1,464 19. Henrik Holm (Sweden) 1,388 20. Alexander Volkov (Russia) 1,309

French Open: A veritable melange

PARIS, June 7: It was a curious French Open, dominated by its champions from last year even though one was missing and the other, against the odds, was dethroned, reports AP.

No amount of heroes in the women's field could erase the fact that Monica Seles was not here to pursue a fourth straight title. Steffi Graf was subdued after winning, seemingly aware that her victory was a bit hollow.

Among the men, a steady stream of upsets and five-set thrillers provided only temporary distraction from the central question: Could anyone stop Jim Courier from winning his

third title in a row? Only on Sunday evening, after a bruising four-hour, five-set final, did Spain's Sergi Bruguera answer that question.

The 11th-seeded Spaniard probably played the greatest tennis of his life, ending Courier's 20-match French Open winning streak with a 6-4, 2-6, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 victory.

"I was in heaven for a moment," Bruguera said. "I reached my dream from since I was 5 years old."

Courier had not dropped a set to Bruguera in four previous matches, but he refused to second-guess himself about his tactics in the battle of baseliners.

"I hit the shots at the times that I thought were correct," Courier said. "He played better than I at the big points."

Bruguera beat top-ranked Pete Sampras, as well as second-ranked Courier, en route to his first Grand Slam title, leaving unresolved the debate over which of the two Americans is the best.

Courier has never advanced past the quarter-finals at Wimbledon, but his coach, Jose Higueras, thinks that may change.

For Graf, like Courier, there was constant pressure to live up to the role of favourite. She was expected to dominate every match she played, and admitted to feeling almost overwrought at the start of Saturday's final against fifth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez.

Fernandez had engineered stunning back-to-back upsets of the No 2 and No 3 seeds, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Gabriela Sabatini. But Graf hung on despite a rocky start to win 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Even in victory, Graf was partially overshadowed by Seles — sidelined indefinitely while recovering from being stabbed by an obsessive Graf fan at a match in Hamburg, Germany, five weeks ago.

Questioned by reporters after the final, Graf was forced into a virtual apology for not mentioning Seles in her victory remarks.

Graf will be favoured again at Wimbledon and goes there ranked No 1, a position she reclaimed from Seles by reaching the French Open final.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Dracula author Stoker 5 She'll be out in a minute 8 Striker's foe 12 "Damn Yankees" vamp 13 Ostrich's cousin 14 Via, briefly 15 Bad sign 16 Doctrine 17 Doggy-bag fill 18 Car owner's chore 20 18 Across need 22 It gets flicked 23 — Moines 24 Blows from Holyfield 27 Qualified for "Star Search" 32 Nebraska ex-governor Kay 33 Raw rocks 34 Bachelor's last words 35 Cardinal's address 38 Tailor's pride 39 Without further ado 40 Cumberland, e.g. 42 Short sock 45 Ardently enthusiastic 49 Fabric flaw 50 Spring-steen's birthplace? 52 "I could — horse!" 53 Mars counterpart 54 Crib 55 Laugh-a-minute type 56 Serenades the moon 57 Skilled Solution time: 23 mins. 58 "Desire Under the —" DOWN 1 Die, as a fuse 2 "Arrivederci" 3 Emcee 4 Trebek 4 Crazes 5 Spy novelist Len 6 Type units 7 Ecdy-siast's move 8 "Hot" 9 Poirot's creator 10 Part of NEA 11 Quayle's boss 19 Canadian prov. 21 Lyric poem 24 DiMaggio or Namath 25 Get ready to fight 26 TV newsmen David 28 Lob's path 29 "Shampoo" actress 30 Author LeShan 31 Comic DeLuise 36 Minimally 37 Ram's ma'am 38 Orb 41 Rough lava 42 Obsessed sea captain 43 Asta's mistress 44 Sousa-phone's kin 46 Racetrack boundary 47 Tiny bit 48 Bella 49 Abzug's collection 51 Sample the Sauterne

CRYPTOQUIP KES UOA, RVN FXTBNS RESTNY UKAXRXWXOT, XFT'R OQSOXYRK BK KTRVN SNWKSYS. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CHEF MADE ALL THE FOOD TOO SPICY, SINCE HE HAD THYME ON HIS HANDS. Today's Cryptoquip clue: B equals G

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.