# Boon leads Aussie charge

LEEDS, England, July 22: David Boon's third century of the series put Australia well on the road to retaining the Ashes as they amassed 307 for three on the opening day of the fourth Test against England today, reports Reuter.

England's novice four-man seam attack failed to extract any real venom from the much-feared Headingley pitch as each of the Australian batsmen scored runs with ease.

Boon was unbeaten on 102 at the close and captain Allan Border on 38 not out.

Australia, already 2-0 up in the six-match series, will be certain of retaining the Ashes even should they manage only a draw.

Opener Michael Slater set the tone from the outset after Border won the toss and decided to bat.

He and Mark Taylor put on 86 for the first wicket before the left-hander was trapped lbw for 27 by Test debutant Martin Bicknell, drafted in by England in place of off-spinner Peter Such.

Slater continued undaunted, stylishly reaching his third half-century of the series as Australia moved to 103 for one by lunch.

Slater reached his half-century from only 75 deliveries and went on to make 67 before falling to Mark Illot shortly after lunch, bowled when attempting to clip a good length ball through mid-wicket.

That left Australia still well-placed on 110 for two and runs continued to come a pace as Mark Waugh joined the in-form Boon, his country's most consistent batsman over the past three years.

Boon was especially severe on Illot, punishing him for four boundaries in quick succession.

Headingley, where there has been a result in every Test since England's draw against West Indies in 1980, appeared to have lost its venom following the relaying of the pitch on the instructions of the Test and Country Cricket Board.

Certainly none of the Australian batsmen looked troubled although they were certainly assisted by loose bowling from the England seamers.

Boon was especially severe on anything short of a length and his century, seemingly inevitable from the moment he went to the crease, came in 277 minutes from 199 balls and contained 17 boundaries.

Martin McCague, the fastest of the England bowling quartet and lauded after making a good impression in his debut in the third Test at Nottingham, suffered most at the hands of Boon and Waugh.

He was without a maiden in his 21 overs which cost 99 runs and Waugh rapidly rattled up 52 before becoming Illot's second victim.

Waugh was bowled in the final session but Boon and Border made sure there were no further successes, although the Australian captain several times played and missed outside the off-stump.

But so ineffective were the England bowlers that captain Graham Gooch was forced to use his own gentle medium pace. It failed to achieve the required breakthrough, although it did at least cut the run-rate with only five coming from the five overs he sent down.

England, hopes high after going close to a win in the third Test following big defeats in the first two, already look to be facing an almost impossible task in their quest to keep alive their hopes of reclaiming the Ashes.

England's Robin Smith (C) smiles as Australian bowler Merv Hughes warms up during a practice session before the fourth Test which began yesterday at Headingley. — AFP photo

DAVID BOON ... 102 n.o.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard on the first day of the fourth cricket Test between England and Australia at Headingley today:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings

| | |
|---|---|
| M Slater b Ilott | 67 |
| M Taylor lbw b Bicknell | 27 |
| D Boon not out | 102 |
| M Waugh b Ilott | 52 |
| A Border not out | 38 |
| Extras: (b5, lb10, w2, nb4) | 21 |
| Total: (Three wickets) | 307 |

Fall of wickets: 1-86; 2-110; 3-216.

To bat: S Waugh, I Healy, P Reiffel, M Hughes, S Warne, T May.

| Bowling: | O | M | R | W |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| McCague | 21 | 0 | 99 | 0 |
| Ilott | 23 | 5 | 64 | 2 |
| Caddick | 20 | 3 | 61 | 0 |
| Bicknell | 21 | 4 | 63 | 1 |
| Gooch | 5 | 3 | 5 | 0 |

**ENGLAND:** M Lathwell, M Atherton, R Smith, A Stewart, G Gooch, G Thorpe, N Hussain, A Caddick, M McCgue, M Ilott, M Bicknell.

# Border gets away with it

LEEDS, England, July 22: Australian captain Allan Border escaped disciplinary action despite criticising match referee Clive Lloyd on the eve of the fourth Test against England, reports Reuter.

"Trent Bridge was overplayed in my opinion," claimed Border. "We weren't reported by the umpires as far as I know. It was an over-reaction from the referee.

"I think if you checked with the umpires they would be disappointed it was made public. It was the fault of the referee. He has got to realise his responsibilities."

Border's public criticism broke international cricket's code of conduct, but Lloyd defused the situation after meeting Australian management.

He issued a statement saying: "It was quite clear that Allan Border was under a misapprehension about the complaint from the Trent Bridge umpires.

"This was made clear to him and he and the management now accept that a formal warning was issued. The matter is now closed."

But the Australians still believe they did nothing wrong at Trend Bridge.

"I won't be saying anything to my side," said Border, who was fined dollar 1,400 by a match referee for disputing an umpire's decision during a recent series against West Indies.

"We won't be approaching it any differently. We play a good, hard game of cricket.

"You people call it sledging if two guys stare at each other. That ora bit of by-play isn't sledging, it's been going on for 100 years."

**GOOCH GRUMPY**

His England counterpart Graham Gooch has hit out at the decision to dig up the Headingley Test wicket where he scored 135 against Pakistan last summer and 154 against West Indies in 1991.

Gooch, 40 on Friday said : "They've dug up last year's pitch and I'm not happy. I'd better not say too much. Ask the Test and County Cricket Board.

"Last year's pitch was slow and seamed around, but it stayed the same throughout the game. It was a good cricket wicket and we won because we performed better than they did."

But Chris Hassell, Yorkshire's chief executive, said last year's so called "England-friendly" pitch has been re-laid under TCCB orders.

However, TCCB cricket committee secretary Tim Lamb said later: "It was Yorkshire's decision to re-lay the pitch. We gave them our blessing. But we certainly did not order them to do so. We can't force any club to re-lay a pitch."

# Kooiman steers US through

DALLAS, Texas, July 22: Cle Kooiman sent a Roy Wegerle cross into the net 14 minutes into sudden-death over-time on Wednesday to send the US national soccer team into the championship match of the CONCACAF Gold Cup tournament in Mexico City this weekend, reports Reuter.

Kooiman, a defender from California, got his right foot on Wegerle's pass from the right wing, arcing the ball from 12 yards into the top-left corner of the goal to end Costa Rica's hopes of a return match with Mexico.

The 1-0 victory, achieved before 14,826 fans at the 70,000 seat cotton bowl, put the Americans — defending champions in the regional tournament — into Sunday's final before an expected 120,000 fans at Mexico City's Azteca Stadium. There they are expected to meet Mexico, who are favoured to beat Jamaica in the other semifinal today in Mexico City.

It will be a homecoming of sorts for Kooiman, who plays regularly at Azteca for Mexican club Cruza Zaul.

"I've played in front of 120,000 people before, and I'll tell you, it's the most incredible feeling you'll every feel in your entire life."

The Americans will be without Tab Ramos.

The Spain-based midfielder received his second yellow card of the tournament in the 42nd minute, for ungentlemanly behaviour and was suspended for the final. The US Soccer Federation has officially protested the booking.

He received the suspension for not using a stretcher that the referee had requested for his use. The US claim there were instances in which Costa Rica had done the same thing but was not penalised.

The odds of the protest being upheld are very slim, said Bill Nuttall, the US general manager.

Costa Rica, which will play in Sunday's third place game, had tied Mexico 1-1 in first round play. Mexico earned the draw with a late own-goal.

Kooiman's goal in sudden-death over-time was his first since joining the US squad in May. "I shut my eyes, hit the ball, and it went into the back of the net," he said.

The United States were clearly the dominant squad. The US outshot Costa Rico 19-5 — but Costa Rica's stalwart defence forced the Americans to attack from the perimeter.

When the US could penetrate either defender Maximilien Peynado was there to break things up or goal-keeper Eric Lonnis defused the threat with a fine save.

The Americans hit the post twice, first in a 22nd minute on a shot by Wegerle, then on a Thomas Dooley header in the 77th minute. In a deviation from the usual international rules, the 90 minutes of regulation play was followed by sudden-death over -time. Had there been no score after two 15 minute periods, penalty kicks would have followed.

## Rain rules match drawn

KANDY, Shri Lanka, July 22: Rain washed out this season's first Test match between India and Shri Lanka for a fifth straight day Thursday, forcing officials to declare it a draw, reports AP.

The teams only played 50 minutes in the first of their three scheduled Test matches, and Shri Lanka slid to 24 hr three from 12 overs after being sent to bat on a damp wicket. The rain prevented any play at all on the first, third, fourth and the fifth days.

On Thursday, light rain only allowed the teams to make a token appearance at the Asgiriya Stadium to collect souvenirs.

The teams now travel to Colombo, where the first of three one-day internationals is scheduled Sunday at the Khettarama Stadium.

The second Test is at Singhalese Stadium in Colombo on Tuesday.

## McDermott aims to play in 6th Ashes Test

BRISBANE, Australia, July 22: Australian fast bowler Craig McDermott said Thursday he hopes to rejoin his teammates in England for the sixth and final Test of the Ashes series next month, reports AP.

McDermott returned to Australia last month after undergoing surgery on a twisted bowel.

"I've had a few talks with my physiotherapist and he's set my programmes so that I could be available for the last country game and last Test match," McDermott told the Channel 10 television network.

"I'm training hard, pretty well twice a day, six days a week now, mainly to get ready for the next season," McDermott said.

"But if I'm there a little bit earlier, hopefully I might be ready to go."

McDermott would be a welcome addition to an Australian attack, left paper-thin by his absence, a groin strain to Brendon Julian and Wayne Holdsworth's lack of form.

Merv Hughes, who is recovering from a groin strain, and inexperienced Paul Reiffel led the Australian attack as the fourth Test began Thursday at Headingley.

## Botham Jr asserts himself

LONDON, July 22: Liam Botham, 15-year-old son of former England all-rounder Ian Botham, took four wickets on his debut for Hampshire's second team on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The England under-16 all-rounder captured four for 63 from 18 overs after coming on as first change in the Country Championship match against Worcestershire in Southampton.

He said his ambition was to "have a better Test record in runs, wickets and catches than my dad."

Botham senior quit the first-class game earlier this week.

## Kiwi accuracy gives England pains

BECKENHAM, England, July 22: New Zealand's excellent fielding and accurate bowling was enough to beat England by 25 runs in the women's World Cup here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

New Zealand set England a less than convincing target of 128 at the Lloyds Band ground, but the hosts were not up to the task and were bowled out for 102 in 57.2 overs.

Five of England's batting line-up were run out, including opener Janette Brittin, who made a century on Tuesday. New Zealand's Debbie Hickely made a direct hit on Brittin's stumps to send her back to the dressing room.

Earlier, England had themselves given a spirited performance in the field and locked to have done enough to win when they bowled New Zealand out for 127 with more than six overs to spare.

## Brothers in KDSA soccer final

KHULNA, July 22: Brothers Union defeated Mongla Port Club 2-1 in the second semifinal of KDSA football tournament at the local stadium this afternoon, reports BNA.

The match was tied 1-1 in the stipulated period.

Shetu scored the winner in the extra time to see his side through to the final where they will take on Bankers on July 25.

## Women hockey

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania, July 22: Results from the eighth day of the women's Intercontinental Cup for field hockey here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

# Novotna, Sukova put antipathy aside

FRANKFURT, July 22: The Czech and Slovak Republics may have reached the Federation Cup quarter-finals here on Wednesday, but the women who put the team there did not enjoy each other's company, reports AFP.

JANA NOVOTNA

Recent Wimbledon finalist Jana Novotna and Helena Sukova had not played together since the 1990 Masters and have hardly exchanged a word for the last two years.

But When Novotna was beaten by experienced Italian Sandra Cecchini in three sets in Wednesday's second-round clash, team captain Jiri Medonos felt he could take no risks and put the former French, Wimbledon and United States Open doubles champions into the Wallastadion's Centre Court arena.

The decision paid off since Sukova and Novotna beat Cecchini and Silvia Parina 6-2, 6-2.

But After the match they clearly avoided eye contact.

"I was happy the way I played," said Novotna, adding: "There was no way they could win."

Sukova was more gracious.

"We played well," she said, without the trace of a smile.

Earlier, Sukova had got the third seeds off to an efficient start by beating 16-year-old Francesca Bentivoglio 6-4, 6-2.

Novotna looked as though she would put the result beyond doubt when she pocketed the first set to love against 28-year-old Cecchini. But she then went off the boil.

In the next round the Czech and Slovak side will face France.

**FRANCE FARE WELL**

The French team, who have Never got further than the semifinals at the event, produced a workman like performance against Sweden and didn't drop a set.

much-improved Julie Halard defeated Asa Carlsson for the loss of only five games.

And Tauziat managed to produce the right shots at the right times against stubborn Cecilia Dahlman.

"That first set was not as easy as the score would suggest," said the 25-year-old Tauziat. "She played well and every game was close."

In the doubles, Halard and Tauziat continued to improve their cohesion and they dropped only five games.

The French players and team captain Francoise Durr praised the excellent team-spirit in the squad.

Tauziat could not resist a last gripe about the truant Mary Pierce.

The 18-year-old, who was left out of the squad when she failed to turn up at a series of pre-cup training sessions in Paris and went instead to play in Kitzbuehl, is now taking part in an exhibition tournament in Mahwah.

"She should be sanctioned for her behaviour. It's been outrageous," said Tauziat.

France did not rule out another success against Novotna and company in the next round.

"We have nothing to lose and everything to play for," said Durr.

**FINNISH JINX**

Eight-seeds Japan once again failed to overcome a 29-year jinx when they went out to Finland in their second-round clash.

Japan, who have never got further than the second round in the competition since launching the first of their 25 campaigns back in 1964, once again failed to reach the quarter-finals.

HELENA SUKOVA

Mana Endo got them off to a excellent start when she produced an efficient 6-3, 6-2 win against Petra Thoren.

But Naoko Sawamatsu was all at sea against Nanne Dahlman and won only five games.

In the doubles Rika Hiraki and Nana Miyagi prolonged hopes by taking the second set but eventually went down 4-6, 7-5, 3-6 to Thoren and Dahlman.

Argentina produced the day's major surprise when they defeated fourth-seeds Bulgaria and the Maleeva sisters.

Katerina crashed to a straight-sets loss to Ines Gorrachategui but Magdalena managed to outlast Florencia Labat over three sets.

The Maleevas were then defeated in another three-setter in the doubles against Gorrochategui and Patricia Tarabini, to put Argentina through to a quarter-final showdown with fifth seeds the United States.

**US STRUGGLE**

The Americans didn't have things all their own way. Their number-one player Lori McNeil, who fell heavily and bruised her thigh 24 hours earlier, lost in three sets to China's Fang Li.

But she made amends by joining forces with Lindsay Davenport to win the doubles. Earlier Davenport had dropped only four games in the first singles against Ying Bi.

Australia, who put out defending champions and second-seeds Germany on Tuesday, reached the last eight with a 3-0 victory over Denmark.

Michelle Jaggard-Lai and Nicole Provis won their singles and Elizabeth Smylie and Rennae Stubbs cruised home for the loss of only one game in the doubles.

Provis, who beat Steffi Graf 24 hours earlier, failed to produce a similar performance yesterday against Karin Ptasek, but said: "The important thing is that although I didn't play too well I still won. I feel very confident."

The Australians now play Finland.

Spain, having become hot favourites to repeat their 1991 success in the 32-nation event, coasted past Indonesia 3-0. Their top-ten clay-court specialists Arantxa Sanchez and Conchita Martinez dropped only five games between them.

They now face the seventh-seeds the Netherlands who beat Latvia 3-0.

**GERMAN PLIGHT**

Germany finally bowed out of the event overwhelmed by injuries. Having lost the services of Steffi Graf, who injured her shoulder against Australia, the home country lined up in their relegation match against Austria without Anke Huber who had a back problem.

Barbara Rittner and Sabine Hack saved German blushes by winning their singles — forcing Austria into next year's qualifying competition. The Germans, however, failed to play the doubles because of a wrist injury to Hack.

It left only one fit player in the four-player team.

South Africa made sure of a place in next year's finals by winning their play-off against Israel.

Captain Rossalyn Fairbank-Nideffer lost her opening singles against Anna Smashnova, but Amanda Coetzer saw off Yael Segal.

# Ivan Lendl bungles up again

WASHINGTON, July 22: Top-seeded Ivan Lendl of the United States fell victim to a lower-ranked player once again, when he was upset by American Robbi Weiss 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 in the second round of the 625,000 dollars Newsweek Tennis Classic on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Sixth-seeded Andre Agassi of the United States delighted the evening crowd and defeated Johan Carlsson of Sweden 6-3, 6-2 in his second-round match at the 56-player, hard court tournament where the top eight seeds received first round byes.

Second-seed and defending champion Petr Korda of the Czech Republic called on his serve to get him past American Brian MacPhie 6-4, 1-6 ,6-3 in his second round match.

Third-seeded Maltvai Washington of the United States, fifth-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia and eighth-seeded Amos Mansdorf of Israel all won second-round matches but 13th-seeded Derrick Rostagno of the US was beaten by David Nainkin of South Africa 6-0, 6-3 in the second round.

Lendl, ranked sixth in the world, has now lost his first match at four of his last five ATP Tour events, the exception was his second round exit at Wimbledon. Still, Lendl seemed undaunted by his recent cold streak.

"It happened to me last year and earlier this year and I got over it," said Lendl, who lost in the first round of both the Australian and French Opens this year. "I'll get over this eventually. There is no reason to panic, though I should have won this match."

Lendl, who belted 16 aces but hit three key double-faults in the second set, was in total control of the match against the 138th-ranked Weiss, leading by a set with a service break in hand at 2-0 in the second set.

Weiss,a baseliner who ventured to the net frequently, recovered the break and forced a second set tie-break, which he won on several sloppy shots from Lendl.

Weiss broke Lendl for 5-4 in the final set and serve out the match in the next game as Lendl appeared to get tight and committed several uncharacteristic errors,which Weiss said that his friends predicted would happen.

"I was told that if I could get him close, get him to 4-4 in the third that he would get tight and I could win it that way," Weiss said.

## Becker breaks ties with Tiriac

BONN, July 22: Three-times Wimbledon champion Boris Becker said on Wednesday he had split with his manager and mentor Ion Tiriac, reports Reuter.

Becker, in a signed statement faxed to news agencies from his parents' home in the southern German town of Leimen, thanked Tiriac for his 10 years of work but did not give a reason for the end of their professional relationship.

Tiriac, 54, virtually discovered Becker in 1983 through the German's trainer at the time, Guenter Bosch. But in recent years neither has tried to hide occasional differences of opinion.

Romanian Tiriac told reporters at the Federation Cup women's team tournament in Frankfurt on Tuesday that he had not spoken with Becker for two months.

In May Becker split with his Austrian trainer Guenther Bresnik a week before the start of the French Open.

# Jackson outpaces McKoy again

NICE, France, July 22: European 110 metres hurdles title-holder Colin Jackson powered to victory against Canadian Olympic champion Mark McKoy for the second time this season at the Nice Grand Prix on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The British athlete trailed out of the blocks but gradually caught McKoy and went ahead with five hurdles remaining to win in 13.12 seconds, the third-fastest time of the season.

Jackson, well beaten by McKoy at last year's Barcelona Olympics, said afterwards he believed he was now the world's number one.

A showdown between the two rivals and training partners at next month's World Championships in Stuttgart looks unlikely.

McKoy has told the Canadian Athletics Federation he will not attend the national trials on August 1 even if it costs him a place in their squad for the World Championships.

"It's too far to go home in the middle of the season and two weeks before the championships. I would not be able to recover in time," he said.

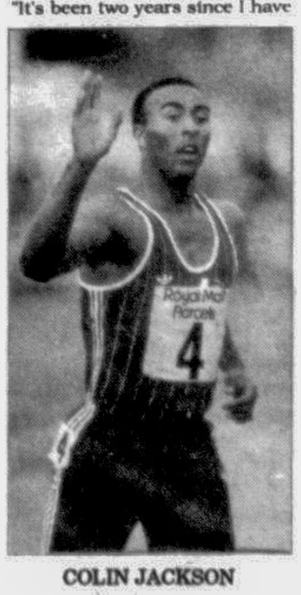
Australian Simon Doyle stormed to victory in a dramatic 1,500 metres and said he had his sights firmly fixed on a medal in Stuttgart.

Doyle, who set the third fastest time of the season, blasted off from the penultimate bend to win in three minutes 34.39 seconds.

Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland was second and world steeplechase record holder Moses Kiptanut of Kenya was third.

Doyle was out of action for six months when he suffered an infection just before the Barcelona Olympics.

"It's great to be back," said the 26-year-old Queenslander. "It's been two years since I have raced at that level. I have been training better than ever and this win has given me a lot of confidence for Stuttgart."



COLIN JACKSON

Doyle, who scored three 1,500 metres Grand Prix wins in 1990, was ill at the 1991 World Championships.

British Olympic champion Sally Gunnell romped to victory in the 400 metres hurdles but was disappointed with her time.

Gunnell, unbeaten over the distance this season, won in a time of 54.29 seconds, well outside her season-leading mark of 53.73. She finished almost 1.5 seconds ahead of second-placed Tonja Buford of the United States.

Gunnell said she was not at her best because none of her close rivals for the world title in Stuttgart was competing.

"I did not have the hunger I wanted tonight," she said. "I wanted to try to run faster but sometimes it's difficult when you don't have someone there to give you a lift."

Olympic champion William Tanui won the 800 metres in 1:46.12 but the next four across the line were within a 10th of a second of the Kenyan. Charles Nkazamyampi of Burundi was second.

Marie-Jose Perec, France's world and Olympic 400 metres champion, delighted the crowd with victory in the 100 metres.

But she pulled a thigh muscle and will miss the national championships next week.

Sergei Bubka was back at his exciting best and just failed to move his world pole vault record up another notch. The Ukrainian, who has set 34 world records, failed at 6.14 metres but won the event with 5.93, 13 centimetres ahead of nearest rival Igor Potapovich of Kazakhstan.

Bubka could manage only 5.60 at the Barcelona Olympics.

World javelin record holder Jan Zelezny of the Czech Republic was also in good form with a throw of 90.68 metres, the second best mark of the season.

Vladimir Sasimovich of Belarus was a distant second with a throw of 83.98.

Zelezny set his world record of 95.54 in South Africa in April.

## Seles in the arena again

FRANKFURT, Germany, July 22: Former world number one Monica Seles is set to play tennis again, six months after she was stabbed at the Hamburg tournament, according to event organiser Ion Tiriac, reports AFP.

Seles has not played since the stabbing by a Steffi Graf fanatic on April 30, and the Yugoslav has lost her number one ranking to the German star.

But Tiriac said she would be back before a German crowd on October 25-31 at a tournament he is arranging in Essen.

However, he did not say whether Seles planned any comeback tournaments elsewhere before that date.

## Capriati cruises

MAHWAH, NJ, July 22: Second-seeded Jennifer Capriati cruised to an easy 6-1, 6-0 victory over Terri O'Reilly Wednesday to reach the third round of the Pathmark exhibition tennis tournament, reports AP.

Capriati ran off the final 11 games in the 45-minute match. The world's ninth-ranked player had little trouble against O'Reilly, one of three triplets competing in the Pathmark.

"I felt great. I felt solid. I guess you can tell that."

Capriati, who won the singles gold medal in the 1992 Olympics at Barcelona, broke serve in the third and fifth games of the first set although she came up with four double-faults in the match. She did manage to blast three aces in the opening set.

In another match, third-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere advanced past Christine O'Reily 6-1, 6-0.

The third O'Reilly, Patti, fared better, coming back for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Shannan McCarthy.

Sixth-seeded Lisa Raymond, who turned professional last month, had little trouble in a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Laura Glitz.

And Camille Benjamin fought off four match points to turn back Pam Casale-Telford 6-7 (8-10), 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

The 25-year-old O'Reillys were the only triplets ever to compete on the professional women's tennis tour. Christine and Terri left the tour earlier this month to pursue business careers.

"It was a natural process," Patti O'Reilly said of her sister's retirements. "All players eventually go their own way. You can't play tennis forever. I'm not ready to take on something else. When I'm ready, I'll know."