

Sport

Aussies on verge of innings victory as May, Warne weave magic

HOBART, Australia, Nov 28: Australia were on the verge of an innings victory after spinners Tim May and Shane Warne decimated New Zealand on the third day of the second Test today, reports Reuter.



TIM MAY

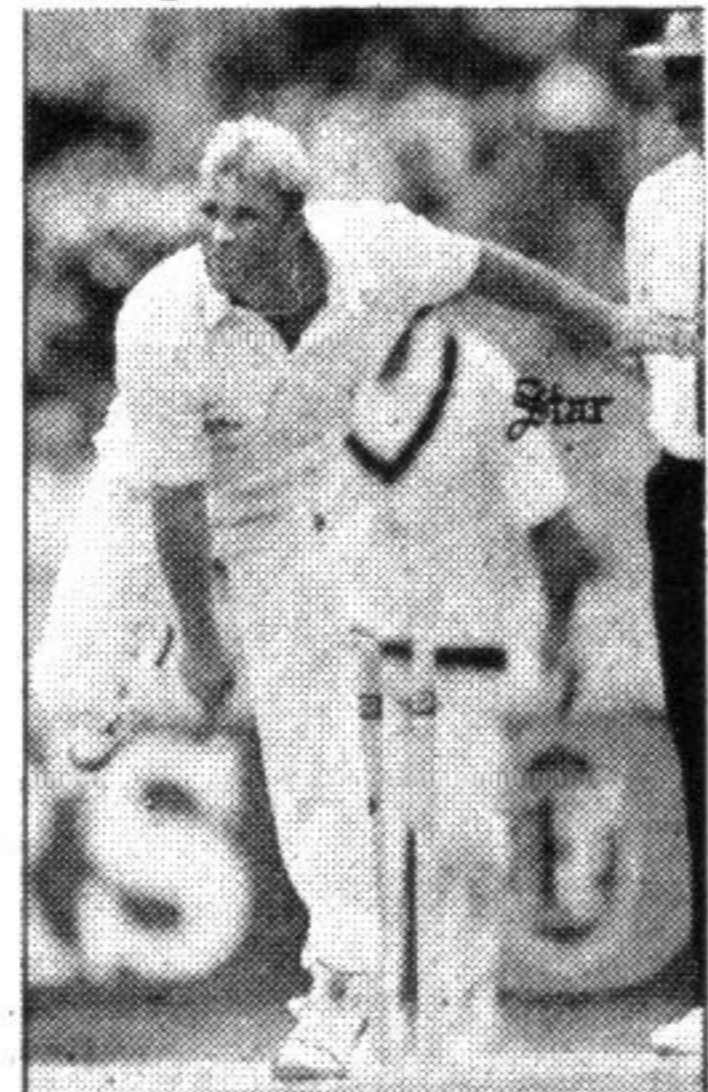
Resuming on 81 for two in reply to Australia's massive 544 for six declared, the Kiwis collapsed to 161 all out in their first innings just after lunch.

Benaud who took 55 wickets in 1959. "There was a fairly strong wind out there and that helped both Tim and myself," Warne told reporters.

With two days remaining, the tourists' slim hopes of repeating last week's drawn first Test in Perth rest with wicket-keeper Tony Blair and Chris Harris — and the notoriously fickle Tasmanian climate.

Warne's five wickets for the day gave him a place in Test cricket's record books as the most successful spin bowler in a single calendar year.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, etc. for the Test match.



WARNE

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South Australia scrape home

SYDNEY, Nov 28: South Australia moved to the top of the Sheffield Shield table after a thrilling five-wicket win over Queensland at the Adelaide Oval today, reports Reuter.

Needling 262 for victory, South Australia achieved their target with eight balls to spare largely thanks to another century from opener Paul Nobes, his second of the match.

Queensland still appeared to have a chance of saving the match when Nobes was finally dismissed for 106. But Greg Blewett and Tim Nielsen guided the home team to victory with a fifth-wicket stand of 39 from 30 balls.

Queensland captain Stuart Law had left South Australia a minimum of 55 overs to score the runs when he declared his team's second innings closed at 351 for four.

Matthew Hayden was dismissed for 116, also his second century of the match, while Trevor Barsby hit 129.

In Sydney, New South Wales achieved their Second Shield victory of the season with a 69-run win over Tasmania at the Sydney Cricket Ground today.

Tasmania were bowled out for 215 in exactly four hours, having been set a victory target of 285 in 55 overs, with spinners Greg Matthews and Adriap Tucker taking four wickets each.

Former Test all-rounder Matthews finished with match figures of 11 for 161 in addition to 95 runs with the bat.

Italian spikers cut Cuba down

TOKYO, Nov 28: Michele Passinato scored 13 points, powering unbeaten Italy to a 15-10, 15-9, 9-15, 15-13 victory over Cuba to win the d'rs 1.5 million World Grand Champions Cup men's volleyball competition Sunday, reports AP.

The fifth victory for the European champions was worth d'rs 400,000.

Cuba was 3-2 to finish in third place.

The United States, the Barcelona Olympic bronze medalist, outlasted Asian Champion South Korea 8-15, 10-15, 15-7, 15-8, 15-13.

The United States is 1-4 for fifth place and South Korea 0-5 for sixth place.

In the day's final match at Yoyogi National Gymnasium, Brazil finished second after beating Japan 15-8, 15-8, 7-15, 15-11 for its fourth win against one defeat. Japan is 2-3.

Chana rounds it off in Round 4

BANGKOK, Nov 28: Thailand's Chana Por Pao-in quickly overcame a first-round setback to knock out Rafael Torres of the Dominican Republic three rounds later and retain the World Boxing Association minimumweight crown Sunday, reports AP.

Torres, the no. 7 contender, sent the Thai to the canvas in the opening moments of the bout with a lightening left hook to the face and then followed it up with a flurry of punches.

But that was his only moment to glory. He danced away from Chana in the second and third rounds as the Thai regained his confidence and unleashed a barrage of hooks and jabs in the third.

The punishment continued into the third before Torres succumbed one minute, 42 seconds into the round.

The 12-rounder between the two 105-pounders was staged in the north-central provincial capital of Pichit. Chana went into the fight an overwhelming local favorite.

Chana, 27, now has 30 wins to his credit, including 12 via knockouts. He took the crown early this year and defended it twice before Sunday's bout.

It was the first professional loss for Torres, who now stands at 18 wins, one defeat and one tie.

Press Club cricket side off to Calcutta

A sixteen-member Jatiya Press Club team left for India yesterday to take part in the inter-press club Medina Trophy cricket tournament, scheduled to be held from November 30 to December 5, according to a press release issued yesterday.

Press Club president Hassan Shahriar and general secretary Shaikh Mahmood along with some members of the managing committee will accompany the team.

Fazle Rashid was named as the manager while Partha Tanvir Naved will skipper the squad.

Ma's army poised for more

MANILA, Nov 28: China's athletes, especially its women distance runners, are expected to go on a record-breaking spree when the Asian track and field championships begin here Tuesday, reports AP.

The rest of the expected 39 participating countries will be fighting for the honor of being second best in the biennial regional championships.

"Many will be coming here because they expect a world record or two to be approximated if not broken," Joseph Dumuk, a sports consultant for the championships, said.

China dislodged Japan in 1983 as the master of the Asian Amateur Athletic Association, or 4As. It is more popularly known. China has held the unofficial overall championship ever since.

This time China will be fighting with a lean 48-member team, including world record holders Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia as well as 10 Asian record holders and eight defending champions.

Wang will be running in the 3,000 metres and in the 10,000 metres while Qu will be running in the 1,500 metres. Both claimed world records during China's National Games in Beijing last September, but the times were not accepted as records because no international teams were present.

Dumuk said the Manila games, being an international meet, would be a good venue to legitimize a world record.

However, Lou Dapeng, chairman of the championships' technical committee, cautioned that China's top athletes, including Wang and Qu, may not aim for a world record.

Lou said Chinese athletes are winding down their year-long training and would just be happy to win golds. He said China's target is to at least equal the 24 gold medals it won in Kuala Lumpur in 1991.

32 Cubans defect in nine days. SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Nov 28: Thirty-two Cubans taking part in the Central American and Caribbean Games have defected since the start of the competition here nine days ago, Cuban delegation officials said Saturday, reports Reuter.

Heavyweightlifters and gold medalists Lino Elia Ocana and Emilio Lara Rodriguez were among 11 competitors who defected on Saturday, according to the Rescue Legion which welcomed the defectors in this US administered island.

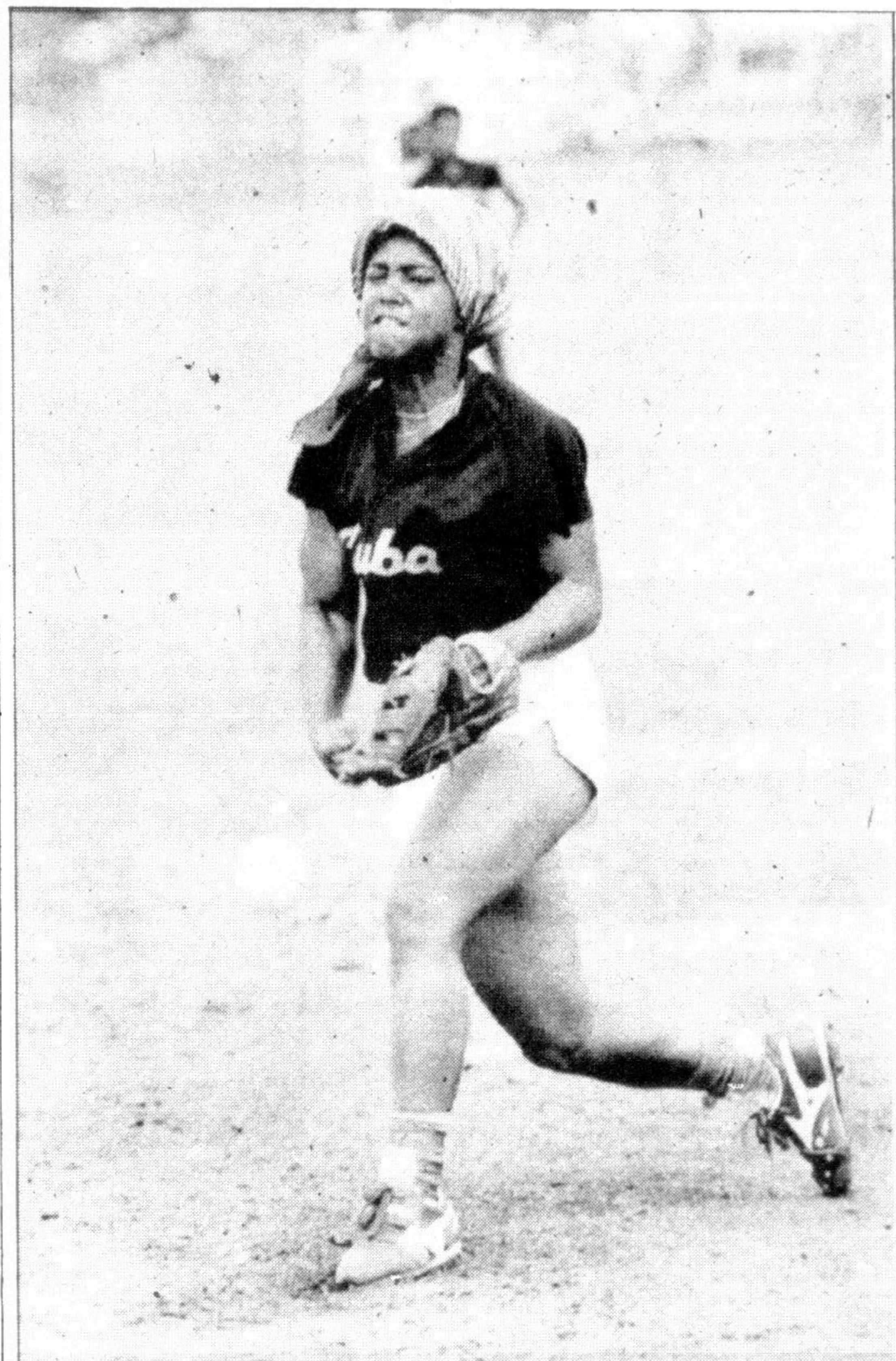
The exiled Cubans Association said the latest defectors would request political asylum from the United States on Monday. Eleven other Cubans asked for political asylum on Friday.

One of the leaders of the Rescue Legion Julio Labatuti said his association had hired a helicopter on Saturday to overfly the Olympic village publicising a phone number would-be defectors should use to make contact.

Barcelona Olympics and world hammer throw champion Andrei Abdvaliev of Tajikistan and world number two pole vaulter Gregory Yegorov of Kazakhstan are among them. "We welcome the chance to test our capabilities against our neighbouring countries," Abdvaliev said.

Nicholas said Manila spent about 75 million pesos (d'rs 2.5 million) for the games, which include the total replacement of the track oval.

Players and officials of the Jatiya Press Club squad, which left for Calcutta yesterday to take part in the inter-press club Medina Trophy cricket tournament scheduled to begin from Nov 30.



Cuban softball star Odalys Hernandez warms up before she pitched in a game at the Central American and Caribbean Games in Puerto Rico. After the game, Hernandez left the field without her team and defected to the United States. She was the eleventh Cuban athlete or official to defect during the Games.

Brazil to train in Europe

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 28: Brazil's manager Carlos Albero Parreira wants the national squad to train in Europe during the first months of next year in preparation for the World Cup, the Estado de Sao Paulo reported Sunday, reports AP.

"I want to make it easier for the Brazilian players on European squads to train as a group," Parreira told the Estado.

Eight players on the Brazilian squad considered starters by Parreira play in Europe, and their clubs are not obligated to free them for the exhibition games Parreira plans for the first five months of 1994.

Before players report to the Brazilian Soccer Federation training camp in Teresopolis, 100 km (60 miles) from Rio on May 17, the squad will play up to six exhibition games, mostly abroad.

In the past, European clubs rarely permitted players to participate, especially when the games were in Brazil. So Parreira wants to set up a headquarters in Europe to facilitate everyone's participation.

In an interview with Estado, Parreira also confirmed Paris St Germain midfielder Rai as unreplaceable, denying Brazilian press reports that Parreira was looking for a replacement.

The other Brazilian starters on European clubs are goalkeeper Taffarel (Parma-Italy); defenders Jorginho (Bayern-Germany), Ricardo Gomes (Paris St Germain); midfielders Dunga (Stuttgart-Germany), Mauro Silva (Deportivo La Coruna-Spain); and forwards Betinho (Dep. La Coruna-Spain), and Romario (Barcelona-Spain).

The three starters on Brazilian clubs are defencemen Ricardinho Rocha (Santos), Branco (Gremio) and midfielder Zinho (Palmeiras).

Parreira and team director Zagalo are presently deciding which teams would be the best 'sparring partners' for the three-time world champions.

Brazil is the only country to have participated in all the World Cups. British book makers rank it second only to defending champions Germany to win the World Cup finals to be held in the United States in 1994.

Angel wears Rocha down

MEXICO CITY, Nov 28: Miguel Angel Gonzalez of Mexico retained his World Boxing Council lightweight title on Saturday when his scheduled 12-round fight with Wilfredo Rocha of Colombia was stopped after the tenth round, reports Reuter.

Referee Simon D'luna of Venezuela stopped the fight on the recommendation of doctor Horacio Ramirez after Rocha had been brutally beaten by the undefeated Gonzalez for most of the bout.

Gonzalez knocked Rocha down in the first and ninth rounds and repeatedly had the Colombian on the ropes. Rocha's face was bloody and swollen at the end.

Gonzalez, 23 years old, improved his record to 31-0. Rocha, 24, is now 24-3.

Tragic

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 28: Seventeen Malaysians on their way to watch a soccer match in the Malaysian capital were killed today when their van collided with a bus from Singapore, reports Reuter.

Familiar foes to sweat it out

KARACHI, Nov 28: Hosts Pakistan and holders Australia will fight out the final of the World Team Squash Championships after both survived scares in the semifinals on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Pakistan were kept on court for nearly four hours before finally subduing a determined challenge from England, with Jahangir Khan finally clinching their 2-1 victory.

With the match level at 1-1, Jahangir was given an early shock in the decider as England's world number eight Philip Whitlock strode to a 5-3 lead in the opening game.

But he then produced a scintillating display to the delight of his home crowd to finally win 9-5, 9-5, 9-3 in 46 minutes and clinch a final showdown with Australia on Monday.

In the opening match world champion Jansher Khan had looked set for a comfortable victory as he led England number

one Peter Marshall 9-4, 8-3. But then Marshall staged a superb recovery — clawing back point after point with his unorthodox double-fisted style.

He took six points in a row to reach match ball at 8-8. Jansher saved that but in a sudden death finish Marshall levelled the match on a penalty stroke.

But the Pakistani recovered his poise in the third, although the Englishman kept battling for every point. The final scoreline 9-4, 9-10, 9-2, 9-1 reflected scant justice for Marshall's efforts, but the match time of 54 minutes showed how hard Jansher had to work.

In the second match it was Pakistan's Zarak Jahan who staged a thrilling fightback after losing the opening two games to World Open semifinalist Chris Walker.

He won the third and recovered from 5-1 down to square the match by winning the fourth. And when he led 5-4 in the fifth a famous Pakistani victory was on the cards.

Walker had managed to keep more in reserve for the final stages and finally brought England back into the match with a 9-5, 9-1, 7-9, 5-9, 9-5 victory in 102 minutes. But then Jansher sealed England's fate.

Earlier Australia, holders since 1989, had taken a gamble by including their top player, world number three Rodney Martin, who has been suffering from a hip injury for several days, against Finland.

Manager Ken Hiscoe thought it better that he kept playing with the injury, rather than risk it 'stiffening up.'

And the decision could have rebounded on the Australian as Martin faded badly against Finland's world number ten Sami Elopuro, losing the deciding fifth and final game to love.

But his brother Brett Martin and Rodney Eyles finally saw Australia through 2-1. Brett beat Pentti Peikkanen 9-0, 9-6, 9-6 and Eyles defeated Juha Raumolin 9-4, 9-4, 9-3.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP TQKZZYOZ GIWW TOIEWPU VPUPIWB HG MKE SPU. YWIWUSW GPPQ H MPOEV. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CHURCH HIRED AN ADEPT NEW BELL-RINGER, BUT HE ISN'T PULLING HIS WEIGHT. Today's Cryptoquip clue: E 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.