

Spread Eagles' sensational win

Sports Reporter

Spread Eagles registered a thrilling one-run win against Lalbagh in one of the two matches of Second Division cricket league played on the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

On a day marked by plenty of excitement and entertainment, Spread Eagles, a local outfit of Dhanmondi, escaped defeat by the skin of their teeth as Lalbagh, chasing 162 for an outright win, gave up finally with the scoreboard showing 160 for nine at the end of the 40 overs.

Sanjay of Spread Eagles captured three wickets for 38 runs to stop Lalbagh, who looked poised for a win with useful contributions from Shakil, Mamun and Anwar.

Shakil top-scored in the Lalbagh innings with 45 followed by Mamun and Anwar who made 40 and 25 respectively.

Earlier, skipper Shibli scored 48, to help Spread Eagles reach 161 for nine in their quota 40 overs.

Madan tailed his captain with 30 while Ripon and Reza chipped in with 19 and 13 not out respectively to give Spread Eagles a fighting total.

Lalbagh's Shaheen returned rich figures of four for 25. Mamun took another two for 22.

TUSHAR'S TON

Progoti Sangha's Tushar had the distinction of being the first century-maker in this year's league as his side, powered by his three-figure knock, outclassed United Heroes by 185 runs in the day's other encounter at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Heroes, who were on the run throughout the day, showed some heroism in seeing themselves through the ordeal which was anything but enjoyable.

While Tushar, who made 103 with the help of 15 fours, swung away lustily at everything the anteroes could manage in a slap-stick comedy of cricket, the eventual losers gave away 53 extras to Progoti's mammoth total of 281 for five wickets from 40 overs.

Almost everyone who, appeared for Progoti with the willow, met with success of varying degrees.

Sujoy made 34, Piklu another 24 while Morshed and Rafiq contributed 23 each.

Beleaguered, bewildered United Heroes were all out for 96 in 24.2 overs in their turn. Farhan, Sayeed and Imtiaz stood amid the ruins with 25, 21 and 13 respectively.

Progoti's Rahul was spread panic among the Heroes with figures of four for 21. Rafiq supported him with two for 31.

National sub-junior chess results

Sports Reporter

Fifteen players led the points table at the end of the second day of the 14th sub-junior national chess championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council.

Rakib, Monowar, Tipu, Imon, Shakeel, Rajeeb, Bobby, Sifat, Prince, Arif, Shifu, Debraj, Romance, Moti and Rahul all got two points to ensure a cavalcade of leaders.

Mainul and Jamal got one and a half points each to cling to the second position.

Yesterday in the second round of the inchoate meet, Rakib, Arif, Monowar, Tipu, Imon, Shakeel, Rajeeb, Bobby, Moti, Sifat, Shiku, Debraj, Romance and Rahul recorded wins against Tulu, Shahriar, Fayez, Enayet, Saquib, Feroze, Yasin, Mehdi, Royal, Shaheed, Shuva, Anil, Garib and Parvez respectively.

With the sub-junior competition just two days old, the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) yesterday announced the dates for the 15th national junior championship.

Unlike the ongoing competition, which is for the under-16 players, the age limit for the national junior championship scheduled to start from January 12, is 20.

Interested players have been requested to complete the entry formalities at any time between 3 to 8 everyday upto January 11.

One more for J-League

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 4: Argentina international striker Ramon Medina Bello has joined Japanese side Yokohama Marinos from River Plate, reports AFP.

The Argentinian agency DYN said the two million dollar deal would be completed next week and that Medina Bello would start play in the J-League from April.

The Marinos already have Argentinians Ramon Diaz, Gustavo Zapata and David Bisconti. He will join the national squad to start preparations for the World Cup finals in May.

Evergreen escape the axe

Sports Reporter

Evergreen Club steered clear of relegation fear when they squeezed out a narrow two-run victory over Lalmatia Club in their last match of the Milnars First Division cricket league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Evergreen, with yesterday's win, their third in nine encounters, raised their collection to six, two points clear of what seems to be the relegation zone.

On the other hand, Lalmatia, who finished with only four points, same as Shantinagar B Club, will now have to keep their fingers crossed for an Agrani Bank triumph over Public Works Department (PWD)—the other team to have collected four points so far—so that they get another chance to stay in the Senior Division. In case PWD lose, the three bottomers would fight it out in a relegation play-off series.

Yesterday, everything started quite well for the Lalmatia as they, fielding first after losing the toss, reduced Evergreen to 17 for three in 6.3 overs. When the fourth wicket fell on 55 it seemed Lalmatia were going to have an easy ride.

But a couple of responsible knocks in the middle helped Evergreen reach 156 for nine in the stipulated 45 overs.

Azim (sr) scored 38 runs in 63 balls with the help of four fours to be the highest individual scorer. Shaibal followed him with 31 made off 47 balls, having sent the ball across the fence on two occasions.

Totam, the Evergreen all-rounder, contributed a useful 23 while Bipul and Mamun weighed in with 18 and 16 not out respectively.

Shanto, who put the Evergreen batsmen on the back foot, claiming two early wickets, finished with sparkling figures of five for 22 in his nine-over spell of medium pace bowling.

Cronje, calm and confident

SYDNEY, Jan 4: Stand-in captain Hansie Cronje, the youngest member of the South African cricket team, says he is ready for the challenge of leading his country against Australia, reports AP.

Cronje will take over from regular skipper Kepler Wessels, who has broken the little finger on his left hand and will return home to recover in time for Australia's tour of South Africa next month.

The elegant 24-year-old all-rounder said Tuesday he hadn't thought about his approach as captain, but urged his teammates to call on all their resources to win the three-Test series and the one-day competition that also includes New Zealand.

"It's a big task on my shoulders," Cronje said Tuesday. "Obviously with being vice-captain and taking it over is a big challenge in my career but I look forward to it and the rest of this tour."

Wessels promoted himself from six to four in the second innings, seeing out 41 minutes for seven runs as South Africa reached 94-2 at stumps to trail by 29 runs overall.

Cronje said Wessels' decision to bat was a brave one, and it was now an important stage of the tour.

"I think it's crunch time now," he said. "Fortunately our captain decided that he'll hang in there for the next two days which is good to see. We need that bit of determination if we're to stay in the series."

Cronje said the toughest team to conquer might be his own.

"Obviously it's going to be quite hard to earn the respect of the rest of the players," Cronje

Atiq, Faheem, Naseem and Ashish Malik got one apiece.

In their turn, Lalmatia experienced a similar jolt when they lost two wickets for only 29 in 11.4 overs. However, a sedate stand of 75 between Saiful and Biplob for the third wicket appeared to set the side on the winning trail. But when both these batsmen left within the space of five runs, the scenario suddenly changed with Evergreen bowlers getting on top.

From 109 for four in 34.2 overs, needing 46 runs in 64 balls for victory, the Lalmatia batsmen lost the tempo and finished painfully short of the winning target at 154 for seven.

Saiful top-scored with 45 in 93 balls while Biplob made 36 with the help of three boundaries. Hassan and Faheem were the two other batsmen to have hit double-digit scores, contributing 21 and 18 respectively.

Mamun was the pick of the Evergreen bowlers, dismissing three for the cost of 25 runs while Rafiq and Totam chipped in with two each.

In the other match of the day, Shantinagar B predictably lost to Eskaton Sabuj Sangha

by seven wickets in a low-scoring encounter at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Electing to bat first, Shantinagar B managed 101 for nine wickets in their quota of 45 overs with only four of their men making ten-plus scores.

All the seven bowlers, employed by the Eskaton skipper, got were among the wickets with Khokon (sr) and Raj Kumara claiming two apiece.

The chase was never too hard for the Eskaton batsmen as they posted the winning run in the 29th over, reaching 102 for the loss of three batsmen.

Biplob and Mona, who featured in a 60-run partnership for the third wicket, notched up 33 and 36 respectively to lay the foundation for a facile Eskaton victory.

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha, with the win, rounded off their first leg engagements, having garnered 14 points from nine outings.

The first leg ends today with PWD going up against Agrani Bank, who have already made it to the five-team super league.

Peter Kirsten's timely reminder

EAST LONDON, South Africa, Jan 4: Former Derbyshire and Western Province batsman Peter Kirsten piled up the highest first-class score of his 20-year career with 271 for his new team Border on Monday, reports Reuter.

Kirsten, discarded by South Africa, completed his personal best after resuming at 181 on the third day of the four-day Castle Cup cricket match against Northern Transvaal at Buffalo Park.

Kirsten, the Border captain and opener, batted 10 hours 40 minutes, faced 534 deliveries and struck 22 boundaries as his team made 475 for four declared in reply to Northern's paltry 146 all out.

His 271 surpasses his previous highest score of 228 for Derbyshire against Somerset in 1981.

The 38-year-old Kirsten becomes the first South African batsman to have scored eight first-class double centuries, only two of them being compiled in South Africa.

His innings ranks as the eighth equal highest scored in South Africa by a South African.

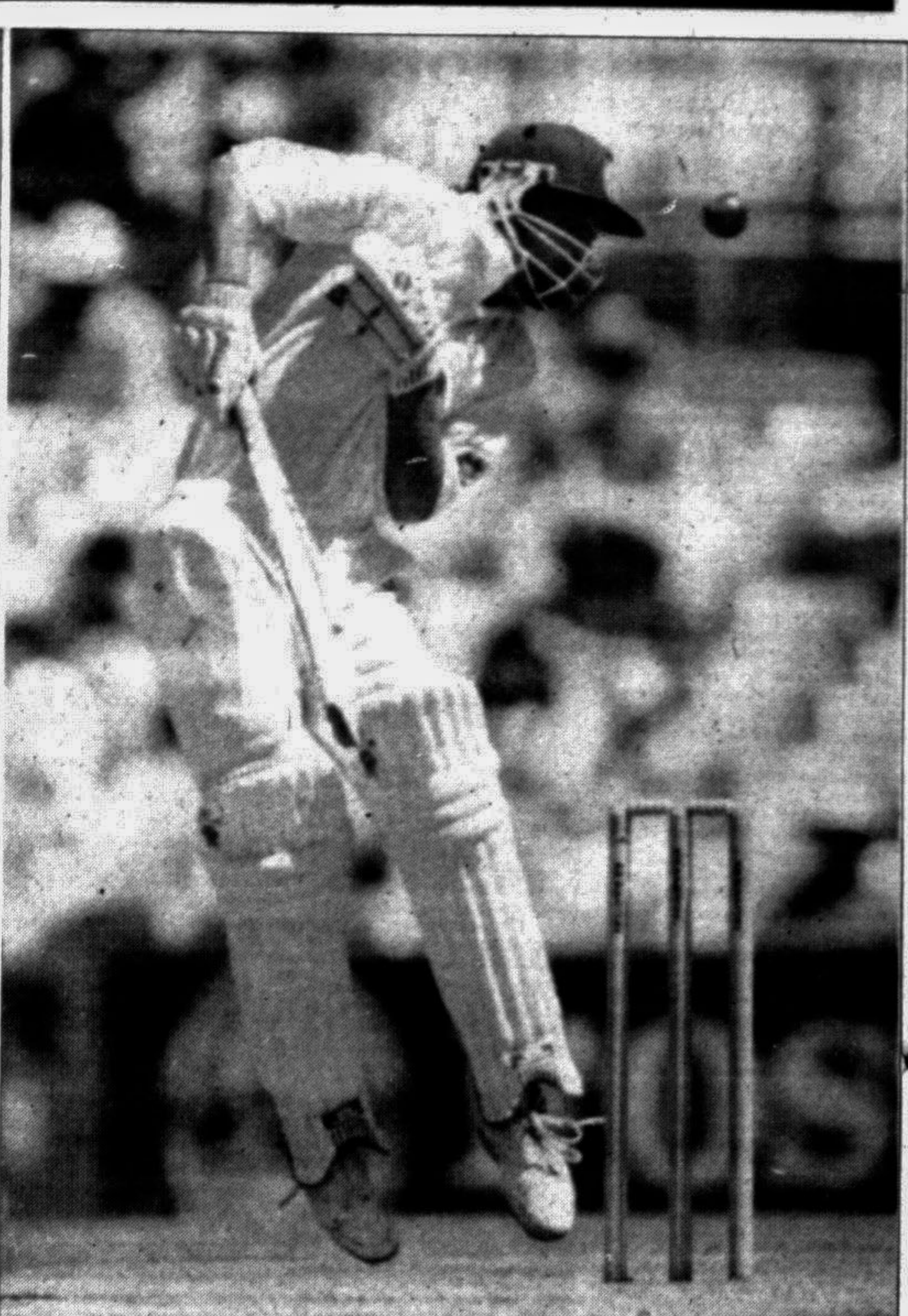
Kirsten, who also broke the first-class individual record for a border batsman previously held by Ian Harty with 222, survived chances on 53 and 190.

With the South African team touring Australia, Kirsten has been the outstanding batsman of the domestic season, having made 18 in a Castle Cup match against Eastern Province and 130 in a Benson and Hedges day-night game against Northern Transvaal.

In his first season as Border captain, he has also skipped the side to their first ever Benson and Hedges semifinals.

Kirsten has been out of favour with South Africa's selectors since just before the tour of Sri Lanka last August and September.

However, on current form, he is likely to captain the South African A side against England A in their five-day match in Port Elizabeth starting on January 27 and, beyond that, a recall to the senior side cannot be ruled out.



South African batsman Gary Kirsten taking evasive action to avoid a Craig McDermott bouncer during the third day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa at Sydney yesterday.

P Kirsten to replace injured Wessels

SA still not out of danger

ADELAIDE, Jan 4: Top-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria, winner of seven tournaments in 1993, beat American Bryan Shelton 6-2, 6-2 Tuesday in the first round of the \$13,750 Australian hardcourt tennis championships, reports AP.

Defending champion Nicklas Kulti of Sweden sent second-seeded Marz Rosset of Switzerland packing, beating the Olympic champion 7-6(7-4), 6-3.

Two other seeded players fell Tuesday—David Riki of the Czech Republic beat fifth-seeded Amos Mansdorf of Israel 6-4, 6-4, while Sweden's Jan Apell defeated sixth-seeded Andrei Chesnokov of Russia 6-2, 7-5.

The tournament also lost two Australian players to injury—former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash pulled out of the doubles, while Jason Stoltenberg withdrew only hours before his match with countryman Jamie Morgan.

Cash withdrew after aggravating an old back injury during the first set of Monday's first-round singles loss to Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov. The 1987 Wimbledon winner left for Melbourne for treatment but said he hoped to play in next week's New South Wales Open in Sydney, where he has a singles wild card.

In Stoltenberg's absence, South Africa's David Nalokin became the tournament's lucky loser and took the first set off Morgan in one of the toughest matches of the day before the 22-year-old Australian prevailed 6-7(3-7), 6-3, 6-4.

The 32-man tournament is being played on the Rebound Ace courts at Memorial Drive.

Team manager Robbie Muzzell said Peter Kirsten, a spin bowling all-rounder, was being sent out as a replacement immediately.

New Zealand captain Martin Crowe went home with leg

trouble in November mid-way through his side's three-Test tour of Australia.

Australian captain Allan Border needed stitches in a cut above the left eye after being struck by the ball while he batted on Monday.

The South Africans have had other problems on the tour.

When his job is done, Wessels will go home, missing the last of the three Tests after succumbing to a recent jinx on cricket captains in Australia.

Wessels was put on an anti-infection drip in hospital for 15 minutes and took painkillers before taking the field in his side's second innings.

He damaged the little finger of his left hand attempting a catch in the slips on Monday.

The South Africans are struggling, their first innings of just 169 answered by a total of 292 by Australia who were all out just after lunch on Tuesday's third day.

At the close today, South Africa were 94 for two wickets, with Andrew Hudson (1) and Gary Kirsten (41) the men out.

The 36-year-old Wessels, who also has chronic knee trouble, was not out on seven. Acting captain Hansie Cronje was not out on 37.

"I aim to bat as long as I can stay out there," said Wessels, who will leave for South Africa at the weekend to allow his finger the three weeks it needs to heal.

He will then be ready for the three Tests to be played against Australia in South Africa beginning in March.

"I'm feeling a bit of pain," said Wessels, slumped on a seat outside the team's dressing room.

Team manager Robbie Muzzell said Peter Kirsten, a spin bowling all-rounder, was being sent out as a replacement immediately.

New Zealand captain Martin Crowe went home with leg

PETER KIRSTEN

Batsman Gary Kirsten, brother of Peter, was sent out when Brian McMillan injured a knee and underwent surgery.

McMillan is now fully recovered and ready to play again. Gary Kirsten is also staying on.

Wessels is due to have an operation on his injured right knee. "I've got a lot of things on my mind. I'll think about when to have the operation over the next few days," he said.

South Africa lost Hudson 12 minutes into the second innings on a dry wicket which was breaking up badly.

Cronje and Gary Kirsten then pushed the score to 75, when Kirsten padded a ball from McDermott on to his stumps.

Australia, 200 for five wickets overnight, achieved their total at the slow rate of just over two runs an over.

Pacemen Fanie de Villiers

and Allan Donald each took four wickets.

Australia's top scorer was opener Michael Slater with 92.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground today.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 169 (G Kirsten 67; S Warne seven for 56)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 200 for five)

M Slater b Donald 92
M Taylor c Richardson b Donald 7
D Boon b De Villiers 19
M Waugh lbw b Symcox 7
A Border c Richardson b De Villiers 49
D Martyn c Richardson b De Villiers 59
I Healy c Richardson b Donald 19
S Warne c Rhodes b Symcox 11
C Mc Dermott c Cronje b De Villiers 6
T May net out 8
G McGrath b Donald 9
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-3) 6
Total 292

Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-58; 3-75; 4-179; 5-179; 6-229; 7-250; 8-266; 9-281

Bowling: O M R W
A Donald 31.2 8 83 4
De Villiers 31 12 80 4
C Mathews 28 11 44 0
P Symcox 46 11 82 2

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings

A Hudson c Healy b McDermott 1
G Kirsten b McDermott 41
H Cronje not out 37
K Wessels not out 7
Extras: (b-5, lb-1, nb-2) 8
Total: (for two wickets) 94

To bat: D Cullinan, J Rhodes, D Richardson, P Symcox, C Mathews, F de Villiers, A Donald

Bowling: O M R W
McDermott 13 5 23 2
McGrath 6 1 10 0
May 12 2 30 0
Border 1 0 0 0
Warne 18 9 25 0

'Doc', drugs and fixed fights

MIAMI, Jan 4: A lawyer for former heavyweight boxer Tim 'Doc' Anderson said Monday that his client was drugged—possibly with LSD—in a 1992 loss to Mark Gastineau, reports AP.

Anderson was knocked out in a Dec 3, 1992, rematch with Gastineau in Oklahoma after having whipped the former New York Jets defensive end earlier in the year in San Francisco.

Anderson, 35, scheduled a news conference Tuesday to announce a lawsuit against Orlando-based promoter Rick Parker, who arranged the fight, said the boxer's attorney Ellis Rubin of Miami.

"What Anderson wants to do is to tell the story of the fight game," Rubin said. "There are fixed fights. There are drugs."

Anderson, who was 26.15-1, was best known not for the fights he won, but for those he lost to Foreman and Larry Holmes during their comeback attempts.

The Anderson-Gastineau match was arranged by Parker, who was the target of accusations reported in an October 1993 Sports Illustrated article that he had fixed matches on behalf of Gastineau and others.

At the time, Parker strongly denied ever fixing a fight.

According to Rubin, Parker was upset that Anderson had beaten Gastineau in the first fight because he was trying to arrange a match between

Gastineau and George Foreman.

He asked Anderson to throw the second fight "to clean Gastineau's record," said Rubin.

"Parker offered Tim half a million dollars and 10 guaranteed wins if he would go down in two rounds," Rubin said.

Anderson refused and brought his own seconds and trainer to the fight. But Rubin said they disappeared at ring time and were replaced by strangers. His bottled water was also taken, Rubin said.

At the end of the third round, Anderson said he was given water from a paper beer cup and immediately began feeling sick.

Gastineau knocked him out in the sixth round.



Scene from the fourteenth national sub-junior (under-16) chess championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday.