

Tendulkar hits maiden one-day century

India back on track

COLOMBO, Sept 9: India beat Australia by 31 runs here today to earn two valuable points in the World Series limited-overs tournament, report agencies.

After piling up 246 for eight from their stipulated 50 overs, the Indians bowled Australia out for 215 in the one-day international at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

The victory was India's first in the round-robin league of the four-nation event, which also features Pakistan and hosts Sri Lanka.

Opener Sachin Tendulkar's brilliant century helped India pose a competitive 246 for eight wickets.

Tendulkar smashed a career best 110, his maiden one-day century in 78 games, in an exhibition of forceful hitting. He was particularly harsh against Australian fast bowlers — Craig McDermott and Glenn McGrath.

The Australians did well to restrict the Indians to a score below 250. Top Indian batsmen had sent the Australians on a leather hunt racing to 100 in 18th and 150 in 31st over.

Tendulkar and Major Prabhakar shared 87 runs for the first wicket with some bold hitting before leg-spinner Shane Warne struck to remove the latter with a long hope, caught at mid-on.

The diminutive right hander reached his half century off 43 balls, but suddenly got into a shell soon after, while Navjot Sidhu (24) and Mohammad Azharuddin (31) farmed the bowling.

The Indian batting then fell apart. Tendulkar reached his century in the 41st over off 121 balls with two sixes and eight boundaries.

Tendulkar flicked McDermott for a six and hoisted Warne over long-on for his two sixes. McDermott had the last laugh when he bowled Tendulkar for 110 scored off 132 balls.

India lost four wickets for 15 runs including two run outs — Kapil Dev and Atul Bedade.

Left hander Vinod Kambli stood firm while wickets tumbled and remained unbeaten on 43 off 47 balls with a six, lifting Warne over long-on in the second last over of the innings.

McDermott picked up two



Mark Waugh top-scored for the Aussies with an attractive 61 off 80 balls, and David Boon contributed 40.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Series day-night one-day international between India and Australia here Friday:

INDIA:		
Prabhakar c Slater b Warne	20	
Tendulkar b McDermott	110	
Sidhu c Boon b May	24	
Azharuddin c Healy b McDermott	31	
Kambli not out	43	
Kapil run out	4	
Bedade run out	1	
Mongia c Healy b Warne	3	
Kumble b S Waugh	1	
Chauhan not out	7	
Extras: (lb-2, w-5)	2	



SACHIN TENDULKAR... maiden century in one-dayers

Total: (8 wkts)	246			
Did not bat: Raju				
Fall of wickets: 1-87; 2-129; 3-173; 4-211; 5-216; 6-218; 7-226; 8-237.				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
McDermott	10	1	46	2
McGrath	6	0	41	0
Warne	10	0	53	2
May	10	0	35	1
S Waugh	8	1	33	1
Bevan	2	0	17	0
M Waugh	4	0	19	0

AUSTRALIA:

Taylor c and b Prabhakar	4
Slater c Prabhakar b Kapil	26
M E Waugh b Chauhan	61
Boon b Chauhan	40
S R Waugh b Prabhakar	22
Bevan c Sidhu b Kumble	26
McDermott c Kumble b Prabhakar	2
Healy run out	15
Warne b Raju	1
May not out	1
McGrath run out	1
Extras: (b-2, lb-10, nb-2, w-2)	16
Total: (all out)	215
Fall of wickets: 1-22; 2-56;	
3-123; 4-143; 5-181; 6-183;	
7-209; 8-212; 9-213.	
Bowling:	O M R W

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	Pts
Sri Lanka	1	1	0	2
India	2	1	1	2
Australia	2	1	1	2
Pakistan	1	0	1	0

Mujtaba flies back home

COLOMBO, Sept 9: Pakistan vice-captain and middle-order batsman Asif Mujtaba has hair-line fractures of two fingers on his left hand and returned home today, manager and coach Intikhab Alam said, reports Reuter.

Mujtaba was injured during Pakistan's match against Australia on Wednesday while taking the catch which d.s. missed Michael Slater.

Alam said he would not be calling for a replacement as there were enough batsmen in the squad to fill Mujtaba's place for the remaining matches.

Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar, who suffered a hamstring injury during the match, will undergo a fitness test on the morning of the match against Sri Lanka on Sunday.

If he is unfit, Rameez Raja will open. Mujtaba's middle-order place will be taken by Zahed Fazal.

Smith shows his mettle

LONDON, Sept 9: Robin Smith, not considered good enough by the England selectors for the forthcoming Ashes series in Australia, collected his fifth century of the season for Hampshire on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Smith made an unbeaten 123 out of Hampshire's 225 on the opening day of their county championship match against Leicestershire.

He batted 200 minutes, faced 187 balls and hit 18 fours and a six — reaching 1,000 runs for the season and 10,000 runs for the county during his innings.

Dominic Cork responded to his omission from England's Ashes party with his highest score of the season to rescue Derbyshire against Essex.

All-rounder Cork made a brilliant 94 after Essex had reduced Derbyshire to 15 for four.

He hit 17 fours in a two-and-a-half hour innings which guided his side to 212 for eight at the close.

John Carr scored his first double century in first-class cricket as Middlesex thrashed the Gloucestershire bowling to all parts of the Lord's ground.

Carr, who put on 270 for the sixth wicket with Paul Weekes (94), was unbeaten on 261 at the close when Middlesex had amassed 513 for seven.

His 289-ball innings included 43 fours.

Ingesson signs for Wednesday

SHEFFIELD, Sept 9: Swedish international Klas Ingesson has signed for English Premiership side Sheffield Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Hillsborough club are understood to have paid Dutch side PSV Eindhoven around two million pounds for the 26-year-old players, who appeared in all seven games as Sweden finished third in this year's World Cup.

Although Ingesson has put pen to paper, Wednesday manager Trevor Francis is waiting for the Dutch FA of officially notify their English counterparts of the transfer, before he can consider him for Saturday's match at Nottingham Forest.

Ingesson, an attacking midfielder, started his career with IFK Gothenburg and played for Belgian club, Mechelen, before joining PSV.

Euro U-21 soccer

NOVA GORICA, Slovenia, Sept 9: Slovenia and Italy drew 1-1 (half-time 1-0) in a European Under-21 soccer championship Group Four qualifying match on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Slovenia — Amir Karic (38th minute)

Italy — Filippo Inzaghi (81st)

Row over OCA invitation to President Lee

Tokyo's role criticised

TAIPEI, Sept 9: Tokyo has no right to interfere after Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui accepted an Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) invitation to next month's Asian Games in Hiroshima, Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Lee decided on Wednesday to accept the OCA invitation to attend the opening ceremony thus raising the prospect of a Chinese boycott of the event.

"The Japanese government is in no position to interfere with the decisions of the Olympic Council," Chien told a news conference, adding that the authority for such an invitation lay only with the organisers of sports events.

"Taiwan-Japan relations should not be dragged into this matter," Chien said.

Politics should not be involved in sports events, the ministry said when accepting the OCA invitation.

Japan, which has no diplomatic ties with Taipei, has yet to respond to Lee's decision.

In Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman warned on Thursday of serious political consequences if the President of its rival Taiwan attended the opening ceremony, but stopped short of saying Beijing would boycott the Games.

Spokesman Shen Guofang appealed to Tokyo to take into consideration the general state of relations between Japan and China, a veiled request that Tokyo not grant Lee a visa.

In a sign of how concerned Tokyo had become about China's threatened boycott, Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama stepped into the diplomatic row this week to remind Taipei that Tokyo had a one-China policy that recognises Beijing.

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The Fighting Irish may actually play in Ireland.

US Sen Edward Kennedy said he was informed Thursday by US Navy Secretary John H Dalton that the US Naval Academy's Gridiron football team has agreed to arrange a game with the University of Notre Dame, nicknamed the Fighting Irish, in Dublin, Ireland, in 1996, reports AP.

I am certain that the people of Dublin will welcome one game between two such well-known American teams," Kennedy said, noting movements towards peace in Ireland with the Irish Republican Army cease-fire.

The symbolism is especially auspicious," he said. "The US Navy will be landing in Ireland to take on the Fighting Irish — peacefully on the football field."

Kennedy said friends of Ireland everywhere will be hoping that lasting peace will cover all of Ireland by the time the game is played.

Noire Dame have won the US national college championship eight times, more than any other school since The Associated Press began conducting a poll.

Moroccans still in it

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 9: Morocco's World Cup hangover continued on a weekend of surprise results at the start of the African Nations Cup qualifying campaign, reports Reuter.

The North African team, who lost all three of their matches at the World Cup, where beaten again in their first qualifying match for the 1996 Nations Cup finals in Kenya.

They were among several group favourites to drop points against unfancied opposition.

The Moroccans, who were the only one of Africa's World Cup representatives playing on Sunday, surrendered a half-time lead to go down 2-1 to Burkina Faso in their Group Seven match in Ouagadougou.

The next series of qualifying matches will be played next month. The top two teams in each of the seven groups go through to the nations cup finals in two years time along with hosts Kenya and holders Nigeria.



WHEREVER YOU GO THEY'RE THERE... on the second and final of the 18th national judo championships yesterday, the stands of the Mirpur indoor stadium were almost empty almost. The tokais were there to watch the judokas sweating it out for medals.



Janny Spijker of the Netherlands (C) sends the ball past American goalie Jadena Kramer during the World Swimming Championships waterpolo semifinal match in Rome on September 8. The Dutch women's squad moved into the final with a 10-7 triumph. — AFP photo

Coruna follow Barcas' suit

MADRID, Spain, Sept 9: Barcelona have their Bulgarian-Brazilian front line with World Cup stars Hristo Stoichkov and Romario. And now, so do Deportivo La Coruna, reports AP.

Runners-up last season to Barcelona, Deportivo have acquired Bulgarian forward Emil Kostadinov — Stoichkov's fellow Bulgarian national team forward — to play alongside Brazilian Bebeto.

"I know the team (Deportivo) has spent two years chasing the league title, and I've come to win it," said Kostadinov, who came to Deportivo earlier this week from Portuguese club Porto.

Playing with Bebeto on offence will be an impressive thing for me," Kostadinov added.

But it won't be for a while. Kostadinov, who signed for four years with Deportivo and may play this weekend at home against Sporting Gijon, will probably have to wait several weeks before playing with Bebeto.

The Brazilian, who returned to Spain several weeks late and then tried unsuccessfully to buy out his contract, probably won't play for three more weeks. First, he's not in shape. Second, he's angered coach Arsenio Iglesias.

Also this weekend, Valencia host Sevilla, Zaragoza are at Real Sociedad, newcomer Compostela go to Oviedo.

Espanol are at Valladolid. Celta host Athletic Bilbao. Albacete get Real Betis at home. Logrones are at Real Madrid, Racing Santander are at Barcelona, and Atletico Madrid try to recover from last week's debacle when facing Tenerife.

The addition of Kostadinov might be the push Deportivo need to get past four-time defending champion Barcelona. Deportivo finished second last season and third the year before. Of course, they have to contend with a rejuvenated Real Madrid and strong sides in Valencia and Zaragoza.

Real Madrid won their opening match 4-1 against Sevilla to claim the early league lead.

At Barcelona, Stoichkov and Romario will wait a few more weeks before they play a match together.

Stoichkov still faces a two-game suspension picked up in the Spanish Supercup before he can play — and it's clear coach Johan Cruyff's team can't do without the temperamental Bulgarian.

Barcelona, playing without Stoichkov and injured Romanian George Hagi, lost their season-opening match 2-1 to lightly regarded Sporting Gijon. Romario's play was lacklustre, underlining the three weeks of practice he missed during an extended vacation in Brazil.

The move mildly disturbed coach Johan Cruyff, who fined Romario a mere 78,000.

While players are coming in, one coach is already out.

The abrupt resignation at Albacete of former Spanish international and Inter Milan coach Luis Suarez may have set a record for the quickest exit, even in Spain's fickle first division.

Of the 20 teams in the first division, half started the season last with new coaches.

Suarez told Albacete officials just hours before last weekend's season-opening match with Celta that he was resigning. He coached the game and after the 1-1 draw it was revealed he had stepped down, citing only "personal reasons."

He was replaced by Gines Melendez, a former assistant to Benito Floro at Albacete before Floro moved in 1992 to Real Madrid.

Atletico Madrid's Colombian coach Francisco "Pacho" Maturana surely winced at Suarez's departure — particularly in the light of his own club's disappointing 4-2 loss at home against Valencia.

Maturana works for Atletico's quixotic president Jesus Gily Gil, who has had about 20 coaches since taking over the club in 1987.

"Coaches with Atletico in the past have been ill-fate," Maturana said. "But that's the past."

Atletico, coming off a 13-9-6 record and 12th-place finish last season, faces an almost must-win situation at Tenerife, despite Gily Gil's statements that consecutive losses to open the season would not be fatal for Maturana.

England mean business

LONDON, Sept 9: England, looking for quality competition as they prepare for the 1996 European Championship, have invited World Cup champions Brazil to a four-nation soccer tournament planned for next June, reports AP.

The tournament, still in its planning stages, would also include Sweden and Japan in a nine-day extravaganza at Wembley Stadium.

England, as hosts of the next Europeans, have an automatic berth to the finals and are looking for competitive matches to test their team while the other nations go through the qualifying process.

British newspapers were critical of the quality of England's opposition on Wednesday, when the United States were beaten 2-0 at Wembley.

Lucky break for Santos

SANTOS, Brazil, Sept 9: Santos defeated Independiente of Argentina 1-0 Thursday night when an Independiente striker scored an own goal in the opening round game of the Supercup soccer tournament, reports AP.

In the 33rd minute, Independiente's striker Rambert used his left foot to deflect a ball, kicked by Santos attacker Macedo, away from the net. But he lost his balance and hit the ball straight into his own team's net.

Both teams were evenly matched and played a predominantly offensive game in heavy rains in this city's Vila Belmiro stadium.

They meet again in the second game of the home-and-away series on Sept 22 in Buenos Aires.

The Supercup tournament is played by any teams that have once won the Libertadores of America Cup Championship.

De La Hoya's title on line

LOS ANGELES, Sept 9: Oscar De La Hoya, who made short work of veteran Jorge Paez in his last fight, will make the first defence of his WBO lightweight title next month against John Avila, reports AP.

The fight is scheduled for Oct 8 at the Grand Olympic Auditorium.

De La Hoya, the only American boxer to win a gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics, is unbeaten in 14 pro bouts, with 13 knockouts. He stopped Paez early in the second round in Las Vegas to win the WBO crown.

Avila lost the third fight of his pro career, but has since won 17 and fought to one draw. In his latest fight, he took the IBF lightweight title when he stopped Stanley Longstreet in the 12th round.

De La Hoya is from East Los Angeles and Avila is from Palmdale, Calif. Both fighters are 21.

Carbajal surrenders

TEMPE, Ariz., Sept 9: Police on Sunday arrested WBO lightweight champion Michael Carbajal on felony charges related to shooting a gun at a weekend party he was told to leave, reports AP.

Carbajal, who won the title on July 15, allegedly fired a dozen shots into the air after he was denied entrance to the party early Saturday morning.

He was booked into the city jail for disorderly conduct, punishable by 1 1/2 years in prison and a 150,000 dollar fine. He was released pending an investigation by the Maricopa County Attorney's office, said Sgt Tom Ryll of the Tempe police department.

Carbajal walked into the police station with his attorney and several family members.