

An inch for Fakirerpool

Sports Reporter

Brothers Union rounded off a barren year on an unsavoury note as their footballers settled for a goalless draw with Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club in the first of the two Star Premier ties billed for the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Although the drawn encounter left a bad taste in the mouth of the Gopibagh booters, Fakirerpool won a new lease of life by virtue of yesterday's outcome.

Fakirerpool, who have so far garnered twelve points from the quota of 18 matches for each team in this year's ten-team Premier league, destined to draw to close today, will now have to fight it off in a play-off against promotees Bangladesh Boys who too wait bated breath in the line of relegation having collected twelve points from 18 matches. The play-off is scheduled to be held on October 26.

However, Fakirerpool could have gone home with full points and with their worries buried if they were not so wretched.

Three of their attempts were thwarted by the wood work.

Brothers, who escaped an always looming defeat managed one more point to a have final tally of 22 points from 18 matches. For the third force in domestic soccer it was not an all too bad performance having slipped down to the fourth place from last year's third with a bunch of youngsters.

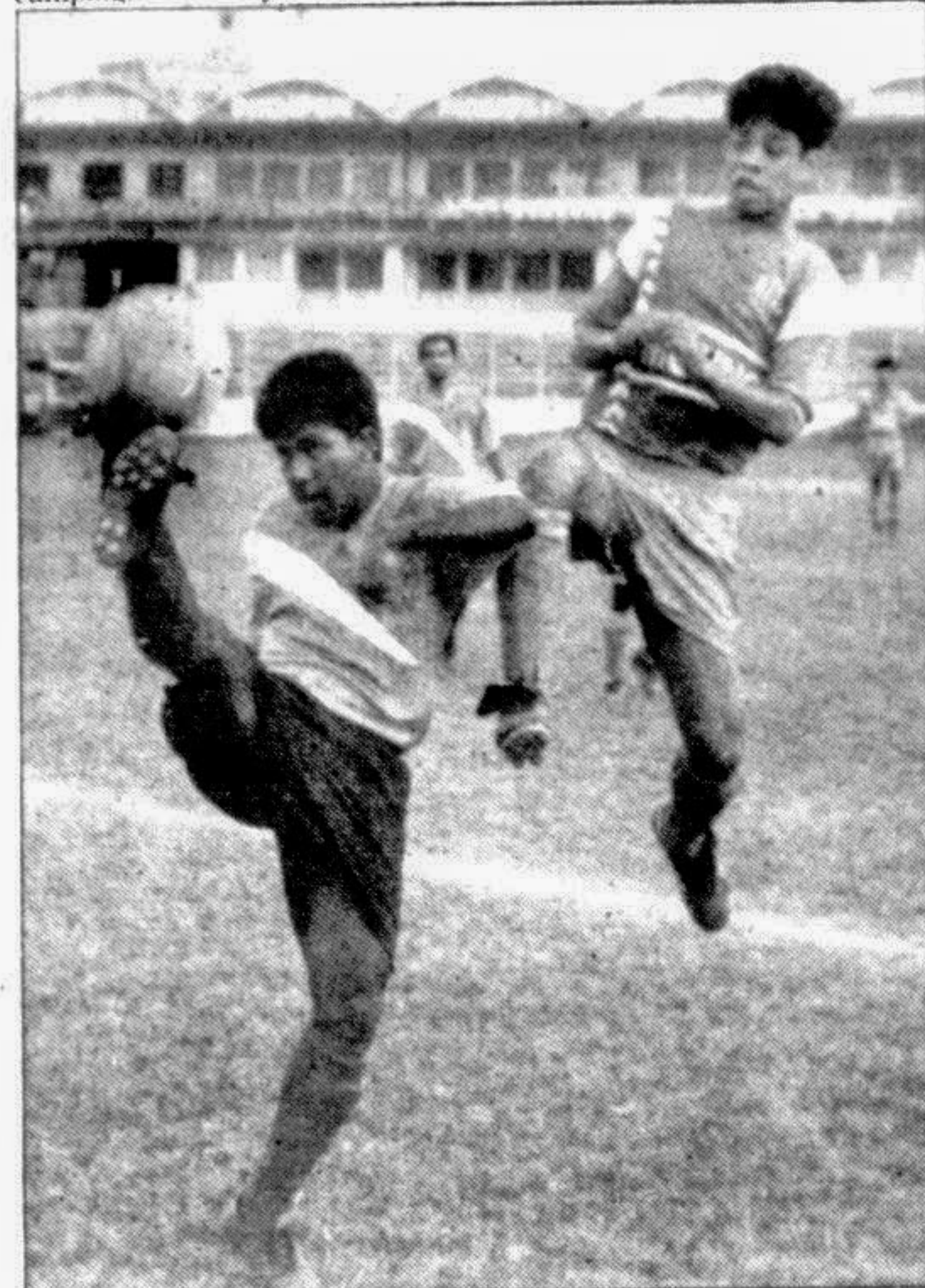
Earlier traditional Wari Club made farewell to the year in an related mood when they put two goals past giant killers Agrani Bank to finish fifth in the points table.

Their share of eighteen

matches brought them a return of 18 points while bankers, who caused upsets in the first phase of the league beating last year's champions Mohammedans and Brothers Union, ended the campaign for the year with no

addition to their previous collection of 14 points.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Eskaton vs Farashganj (Mirpur Stadium, 4-30)
Abahani vs Mohammedans (Dhaka Stadium, 5-30)



Action from yesterday's Star Premier Division football league encounter between Wari Club and Agrani Bank at the Dhaka Stadium. Wari won the match 2-0. —Star photo

Damal Summer cricket from Nov 7

Sports Reporter

The 15th Damal Summer cricket championship traditional curtain raiser of domestic cricket season begins on November 7, said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) press release after a meeting of the tournament committee meeting yesterday.

Interested Navana Premier and Star First Division teams have been requested to take necessary steps to confirm participation.

ABDULLAH FOR BAGAN

Meanwhile, Kalabagan Krira Chakra, who raised quite a furore roping in a number of national cricketers including captain Faruque Ahmed in the players' transfers recently one have signed Abdullah Khan from Pakistan. Abdullah, the bearded all-rounder, is likely to open the Kalabagan attack.

The pretenders as the new force in local cricket are almost certain to return the services of another Pakistani, opener Kaisar Rashid.

Navana teams are provisioned to register four foreigners, only two of whom can play in a match.

DU win

Sports Reporter

Hosts Dhaka University made an auspicious start in the inter-university football championship when they blanked Rajshahi University 2-0 in one of the two matches billed for the inaugural day at the central university ground yesterday.

Striker Javed shot the winners into the lead in the 13th minute and national defender Masud Rana netted the other fourteen minutes later to earn his side a convincing win.

In the other match of the day, Chittagong University edged past Jahangirnagar University by the odd goal in three.

Shahidul and Mohsin were the scorers for Chittagong University while Alamgir pulled one back for the losers.

Earlier, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed inaugurated the six-day meet.

Ctg football

CHITTAGONG, Oct 23: Both the matches of CJKP First Division football league ended in draws at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Mohammedan Blues and Ispat Ekadash split points with in a one-all draw.

In the 9th minute Tara put Mohammedans ahead dodging the advancing Ispat goalkeeper Khokan. Three minutes later Ripon equalised for Ispat.

Mohammedan Blues collected 12 points from 13 matches while Ispat who are at the bottom of the table with eight points from the same number of encounters.

The other match between Chittagong City Corporation Club and Shatadal ended in goalless draw.

City Corporation got ten points from 13 matches while Shatadal earned nine points from the equal number of outings.

Grammar Open chess

Mansur Reza of Dhaka Grammar School emerged champion in the senior group of the Grammar Open chess tournament on Saturday, reports UNB.

The competition, divided into four age-groups and first of its kind in the country, was organised by the Dhaka Grammar School.

The host school also clinched the junior group title while the two-middle age groups went to the Aga Khan School.

Twenty-six players from different English medium city schools took part in the two-day meet.

Cameo knock by Azharuddin

Hosts off to a bright start



MADRAS, India, Oct 23: Skipper Mohammad Azharuddin cracked an explosive 81 off 82 balls as India defeated the West Indies by four wickets in the opening match of the three-nation, limited-overs series here Sunday, reports AFP.

Having restricted the West Indies to 221, the Indians kept their cool in the pressure cooker atmosphere of the over flowing Chepauk to scrape through with 10 balls to spare.

The stylish Azharuddin led India's victory charge before 51,000 boisterous home fans, with all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar (38), Vinod Kambli (22) and Ajay Jadeja (21) providing able support.

The West Indians sensed a chance to turn the tables when they took the sixth wicket of Azharuddin in the 44th over — caught by Courtney Walsh at mid-wicket with India still needing 27 to win.

But the seventh-wicket pair of wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia (24 not out) and Anil Kumble (nine not out) battled through the fading light and growing tension to score the required runs.

The dapper Mongia settled the issue by smashing Walsh for two boundaries in the 46th over, and then square-cutting speeds ster Anderson Cummins to the point fence for the winning boundary.

The victory gave the hosts a sound start in the preliminary league of the two-week competition also involving New Zealand. Each team will play the other twice, with the top two advancing to the final on November 5.

In the next match on Wednesday, the West Indians clash with New Zealand in the popular tourist resort of Goa. India play their first match against the Kiwis at Baroda on Friday.

Both India and the West Indies went into the match deadlocked at 1-1 in a separate five-match series, which will be resumed after the three-nation tournament ends. The home side overcame a century partnership between Brian Lara and Carl Hooper to

bow the West Indies out for 221 in the morning.

The Indians grabbed eight wickets for 45 runs after Lara and Hooper had put on 112 for the third-wicket to take the

by seamer Manoj Prabhakar for 19.

Anderson Cummins and Barrington Browne added to their team's misery by being run out. The West Indies were all out with four deliveries of their stipulated 50 overs remaining.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the opening match of the three-nation limited-overs tournament between India and the West Indies here today.

WEST INDIES

Simmons b Srinath	2
Williams c Mongia b Prasad	39
Lara lbw b Tendulkar	74
Hooper c and b Kumble	58
Adams c and b Tendulkar	0
Campbell b Mongia b Tendulkar	3
Chanderpaul b Prabhakar	19
Cummins run out	16
C Vaas c Dekker b Whittall	54
Walsh not out	0
Browne run out	0
Extras: (lb-7, W-1)	8
Total: (for nine wickets, 49.2 overs)	221

Fall of wickets: 1-29; 2-64; 3-176; 4-178; 5-178; 6-202; 7-204; 8-209; 9-221

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Prabhakar	8	0	37	1
Srinath	7	0	24	1
Prasad	8.2	0	38	2
Chauhan	6	0	46	0
Kumble	10	1	36	1
Tendulkar	10	0	33	3

INDIA:

Prabhakar lbw b Walsh	38
Sidhu c Lara b Walsh	3
Tendulkar c Hooper b Cummins	8
Azharuddin c Walsh b Cummins	81
Kambli c Hooper b Benjamin	22
Jadeja c Campbell b Benjamin	21
Mongia not out	24
Kumble not out	9
Extras: (lb-5, W-9, nb-5)	19
Total: (6 wks)	225
Did not bat: J.Srinath, R. Chauhan, V. Prasad	
Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-42; 3-80; 4-136; 5-178; 6-195	

BOWLING: O M R W

Walsh	10	1	31	2
Benjamin	10	0	42	2
Cummins	9.2	0	48	2
Browne	8	0	28	0
Simmons	6	0	39	0
Hooper	5	0	32	0

Overs: 48.2

Result: India won by four wickets

Man-of-the match: Mohammad Azharuddin

Indians in dire straits

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, Oct 23: Sri Lanka, following on 244 runs behind Zimbabwe on first innings, were 30 for two in their second innings at the close of the fourth day of the second cricket Test on Sunday, reports Reuter.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the second cricket Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka at Queens Sports Club on Sunday

ZIMBABWE: First innings 462-9 declared (ID Houghton 266, A Flower 50)

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 96-6)

R Mahanama c James b Streak	1
A Gurusinha c Dekker b Peall	63
S Ranatunga c James b Jarvis	4
A de Silva c James b Streak	0
A Ranatunga c James b Jarvis	34
H Tillekeratne c Dekker b Jarvis	1
P Dassanayake c James b Streak	8
K Dharmasena run out	54
C Vaas c Dekker b Whittall	14
P Wuralremasinghe b Whittall	7
M Muralidharan not out	15
Extras: (lb-4, bn-12, w-1)	17
Total:	218

Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-22; 3-23; 4-77; 5-79; 6-91; 7-142; 8-171; 9-193.

Bowling: O M R W

Streak	28	10	68	3
Jarvis	34	22	30	3
Rennie	29	10	46	0
Peall	17	7	35	1
Whittall	17.1	6	35	2
G Flower	1	1	0	0

SRI LANKA: Second innings

R Mahanama c A Flower b Streak	4
A Gurusinha c James b Jarvis	10
S Ranatunga not out	13
K Dharmasena not out	0
Extras: (nb-3)	3
Total: (for two wickets)	30

Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-30.

Bowling (date): O M R W

Streak	3	1	5	1
Rennie	5	1	14	0
Whittall	2	1	2	0
Jarvis	3	1	4	1
Peall	2	0	5	0

Atherton tired of too much fuss over Warne

PERTH, Oct 23: England cricket captain Mike Atherton said Sunday that too much fuss is being made over Australian bowler Shane Warne's legspinner in last year's Ashes series, reports AP.

Warne's first delivery in the first Test at Old Trafford, bowled to Mike Gatting, pitched outside leg-stump and hit Gatting's off-stump. The 25-year-old Warne went on to take a record 34 wickets as Australia romped to a 4-1 victory.

Atherton was one of the few English batsmen to handle Warne with any aplomb. He said Sunday he would use his intricate knowledge of legspin to help his teammates counter Warne in the coming series.

"I think the significance of that ball has been overplayed," Atherton said of the one that foiled the veteran Gatting. "It has been called 'The Ball That Won The Series' but it never had much effect on me."

"The pitch was a freak, it started so wet you could push your thumb into it and that's why it turned so much. Gatt has played against a lot of quality bowlers for a long time so I can't see that one ball will have a big effect on him. Remember he got 59 in the next Test against him (Warne)."

Atherton said he feared the younger members of his 16-man squad may already be under Warne's spell.

"I hope there's no psychological hold on our batsmen but it's a tough to say," Atherton said. "He's a fine bowler but we must back our own ability. If we show self-belief and if we're positive we should be okay."

England open their tour on Tuesday against an Australian Cricket Board XI at Lilac Hill in Western Australia state.

Passarella for youth over experience

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 23: New national coach Daniel Passarella dropped nearly all of Argentina's World Cup failures when he named 20 uncapped players in a 23-man squad for next month's friendly away to Chile, reports Reuter.

Passarella, captain of Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning side, put the emphasis almost exclusively on youth for the match in Santiago on November 16.

Of the players named, only midfielders Hugo Perez and Ariel Ortega took part in this year's World Cup finals, where Argentina were eliminated in the second round after losing 3-2 to Romania.

Defender Nestor Fabbri, the other player with international experience, last played for his country in the opening game of the 1990 World Cup finals in which Argentina suffered an upset 1-0 defeat against Cameroon.

The rest of the squad are young hopefuls such as striker Sebastian Rambert and Gustavo Lopez who being an extremely gifted left-footed midfielder, is inevitably compared to Diego Maradona.

Stewart brooks no-nonsense



PERTH, Oct 23: England's uncompromising approach to their Ashes-seeking mission was stressed here today by vice-captain Alec Stewart, who said the tourists would be playing to win all their matches in Australia, reports AFP.

The Surrey captain will be returning to his second "home" when England take on an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI in their opening game at Lilac Hill Park, Caversham, North of here, Tuesday.

Stewart spent eight seasons at the ground with the local club, Midland-Guildford, honing the skills which now make him one of England's most formidable players.

But Mike Atherton's 31-year-old deputy made it clear the occasion is not one for sentiment.

"It may be billed as a festival match, but we'll be playing to win," he said.

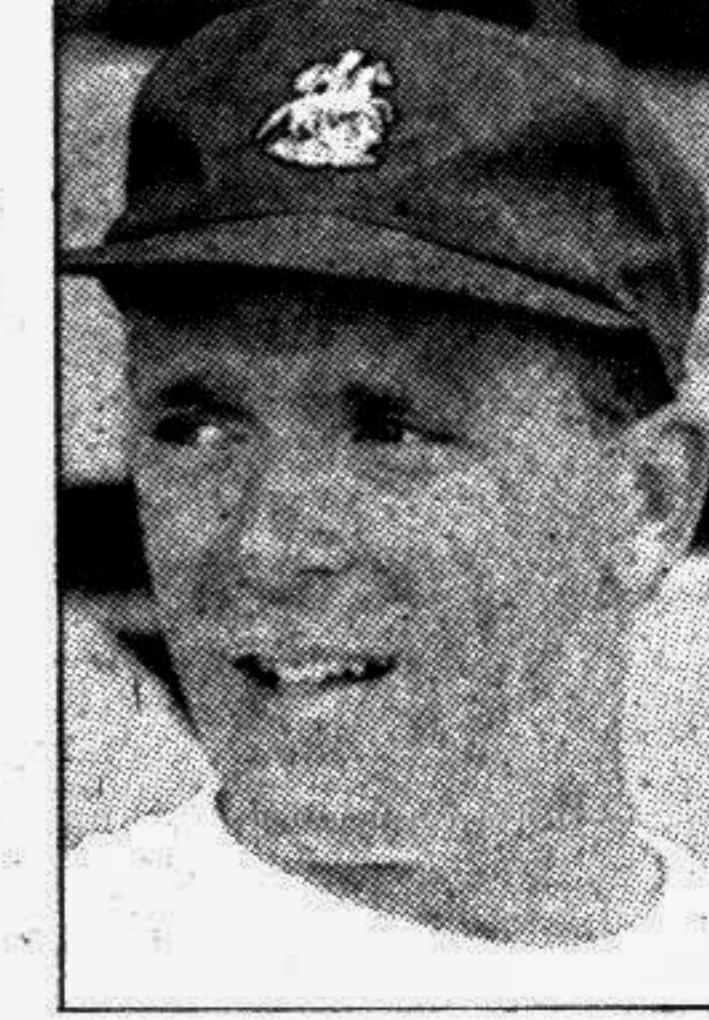
"We want to win every game we play, whether it be this pipe-opener or a Test match."

"We'll certainly not take it lightly — we'll play it properly. We're here to win, not to give everyone a game."

The most fascinating aspect of this warm-up match on the Banks of the Swan river promises to be the clash between England's batsmen and two of their deadly foes of yesteryears — fast bowlers Dennis Lillee, 45, and Jeff Thomson, 44.

The Chairman's line-up also includes two other former Australian champions, batsman Greg Chappell and wicket-keeper Rod Marsh, both 46.

Lillee and Thomson, both long retired from the first-class scene, have been training



ALEC STEWART

hard for months for another shot at the Englishmen.

In a similar match against New Zealand on the same ground a year ago, the pair, helped by former New Zealand great Richard Hadlee, stunned New Zealand's batsmen — and went close to wrecking what organisers liked to regard as a spectacular fun day.

The trio shared five wickets as the tourists skidded to 8-91.

Diplomatic considerations

Rai rekindles PSG hopes



PARIS, Oct 23: French champion Paris St Germain, inspired by Brazil's World Cup player Rai, revived their title hopes on Saturday with a crushing 4-0 win away to Nice, reports Reuter.

Rai, sidelined for most of the early season in the wake of Brazil's world title, rediscovered his attacking flair with two goals and brought the Parisians back into title contention.

Sixth before the kick-off, PSG rose to fourth in the table, six points behind unbeaten leaders Nantes, who had to settle for a lacklustre goalless draw at Sochaux.

With Nantes' nearest rivals Lyon sinking 4-0 at Lens, Paris St Germain made the most of a night of prolific scoring in the French league — 26 goals — to confirm on the domestic front their immaculate showing in the European Champions' League.

"You are going to be surprised because we will make it back to the top of the league. And we'll be hot contenders for the title," coach Luis Fernandez said.

Fernandez denied his team were mainly focused on the European Champions' League, in which they are the only team to have won all their three group games.

He said he had never lost

faith in Rai: "He was professional enough to wait, to work hard, and tonight I'm very happy to see what he had to offer."

The Brazilian opened the scoring with a fine header in

the 20th minute, supplied the



RAI

the 20th minute, supplied the

decisive pass to Liberia's

George Weah, for the second

goal and made it 3-0 from the

left in the 68th minute. Pascal

Nouma sealed victory two minutes

later.

"We sometimes had the impression that there were two PSGs — one playing in the

league, the other in the European Cup. I hope it's not the case anymore," club president Michael Densoit said.

Densoit had double reason to celebrate as Chateauroux, the club he used to run before taking over PSG, scored a rare 4-0 away victory over former European Champions Marseille in a major Second Division upset.

Nantes, unbeaten for the 14th consecutive match, were not their attacking selves at Sochaux and coach Jean-Claude Suaudeau was clearly disappointed.

"You can be disappointed only when you coach a team like this one and they don't score," he said.

It was still a profitable night for the leaders as second-placed Lyon slumped at Lens and now trail Nantes by four points.

Without suspended playmaker Frank Gava, Lyon succumbed to sharp-shooting duo Joel Tchi and Roger Boli, who each scored two goals.

Strasbourg beat Monaco 1-0, thanks to a Thomas Frankowski goal in the eight minute and are third in the table, six points behind Nantes and with a slightly greater strike rate than PSG.

Magpie magic continues



LONDON, Oct 23: Goals from Steve Watson and Andy Cole gave Newcastle a 2-1 win over Sheffield Wednesday as manager Kevin Keegan's unbeaten team maintained their two-point lead at the top of the English Premier League on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Nottingham Forest stayed second after winning 2-0 at Aston Villa where Stuart Pearce scored from the spot after 40 seconds and Steve Stone added a second 20 minutes from time.

With Blackburn, who were third on Saturday morning, and champions Manchester United, who started the day in fourth place, playing each other on Sunday, Liverpool moved up to fourth, steamrolling their way past injury-hit Wimbledon 3-0 with goals from Steve McManaman, Robbie Fowler and John Barnes.

But the blues continued for the blue half of the city as Everton lost again to make it 11 games without a win since the start of the season with the pressure increasing on manager Mike Walker.

They went down 1-0 at Crystal Palace — their sixth successive away league defeat — as the London side won at home in the league for the first time since April and for only the second time this season, thanks to a 53rd-minute Andy Preece goal, his first since his summer move from Stockport.

Two thrilling matches produced 13 goals and defeats for travelling London sides as Manchester City beat Tottenham 5-2 with Paul Walsh

scoring twice against his old team, and Norwich City beating Queen's Park Rangers 4-2 at Carrow Road.

There was a sell-out crowd at Upton Park to welcome back cult-hero Julian Dicks from Liverpool and there was plenty for the Hammers fans to celebrate as they beat Southampton 2-0.

Newcastle dominated the first half against Sheffield Wednesday, who came into the match after wins over champions Manchester United and Ipswich.

But the Magpies, who allowed Athletic Bilbao to escape from St James' Park with two late goals in the UEFA Cup tie on Tuesday, were in no mood to hand out any more favours — even though Wednesday looked sharp on the counter-attack and frequently threatened Newcastle's surprisingly nervous defence.

Watson opened the scoring in the 35th minute Cole added his 14th of the season two minutes later and, although Wednesday pulled one back through Ian Taylor early in the second half, United held on for the points in their 16th unbeaten match this season.

Nottingham Forest remain the only other unbeaten team in the division after winning 2-0 at Aston Villa.

Pearce put Forest ahead inside the first minute of the midlands derby which was less than a minute old when Earl Barrett pushed Bryan Roy in the box to allow Pearce to convert from the penalty spot. Stone sealed Forest's victory with a second-half drive.

Liverpool moved up to fourth

with