

Pakistan do fairly well



LAHORE, Nov 1: Pakistan overcame the last minute withdrawal of pace duo Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis to score 255 for five on the opening day of the third and final Test against Australia on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Skipper Salim Malik, with a top-scoring 75, and Inzamamul Haq, who hit a fluent 66, led the way after the captain had won the toss and opted to bat on a placid Gaddafi Stadium pitch.

At the close, nine balls early due to fading light, recalled players Ijaz Ahmad (35) and wicketkeeper Moin Khan (39) shared an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership of 46.

Salim and Inzamam shared a third-wicket stand of 123 in 208 balls to help their side overcome a shaky start when openers Aamir Sohail (11) and Saeed Anwar (30) were back in the pavilion with only 34 runs on the board.

Pakistan need only a draw to win the series. They lead 1-0 by virtue of a one-wicket victory in the first Test at Karachi.

The third Test opened on a dramatic note when Akram and Waqar pulled out of the Pakistan team just half an hour before the start of play.

Akram complained about a sinus problem and a stiff back and Younis said he was suffering from a troublesome hamstring.

"I am meeting the doctor this evening for a minor sinus operation," Akram said, adding "if this had been a one-day game I might have played but I don't want to take any risks for the five-day match."

Waqar denied that he and Akram had pulled out because of a captaincy problem with Salim, who reportedly criticised their bowling in Sunday's final of a triangular limited-overs series Australia won by 64 runs.

It is the first time since the

Auckland Test against New Zealand in 1989 that Pakistan have played without the two pacers.

The withdrawal of Akram and Waqar forced Pakistani selectors to include pace bowler Mohsin Kamal and off-spinner Akram Raza, after four prior changes to the Test team.

Australia capped Phillip Emery, flown in to replace injured wicketkeeper Ian Healy. They also made three other changes from the side that drew the second Test at Rawalpindi.

Justin Langer was included for Steve Waugh, who has returned home because of a strained shoulder. Glenn McGrath came in for Jo Angel

session.

World champs without Ws

LAHORE, Nov 1: Pakistan lost their two finest fast bowlers, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, Tuesday after they withdrew from the third Test against Australia just minutes before it was set to begin, reports AP.

Akram was said to be suffering from sinus and a sore back, and Younis was recovering from a pulled left hamstring.

This is the first time since the third Test against New Zealand at Auckland in 1989 that Pakistan have gone into a Test without Akram and Younis.

The two most feared fast bowlers in world cricket have shared 434 wickets between them in 90 Tests.

Younis quashed rumours that his decision to pull out was linked to a controversy involving Pakistan's captain Salim Malik.

"No nothing like that," Younis said when asked whether he withdrew because Malik reinstated batsman Ijaz Ahmad, who is also his brother-in-law, without consulting the selection committee.

Malik's decision drew criticism from the committee, some of whom threatened to resign because of Ijaz's selection.

"I don't know about Wasim, but I am happy with the captaincy," said the 22-year-old fast bowler.

Last January, a player revolt led by then vice-captain Younis, led to the removal of Akram as captain. Akram was accused of high-handedness and being influenced by retired cricket captain Imran Khan.

Malik replaced Akram.

Akram, who has had repeated trouble with his back, said: "I didn't want to break down during the game."

Akram is also expected to undergo an operation for his sinus trouble, said team manager Intikhab Alam.

Both players are expected to be fit for Pakistan's twin tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe starting later this month.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard on the first day of the third and final cricket Test between Pakistan and Australia on Tuesday:

PAKISTAN: First innings

Saeed Anwar b Warne	30
Aamir Sohail c Emery b McGrath	1
Inzamamul Haq lbw b May	66
Salim Malik c Bevan b May	75
Ijaz Ahmad not out	35
Basti Ali c Mark Waugh b Warne	0
Moin Khan not out	2
Extras: (lb-4, nb-5)	39
Total: (for five wickets, 80.3 overs)	255
Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-34; 3-157; 4-204; 5-209.	

To bat: Akram Raza, Mushtaq Ahmad, Aaqib Javed, Mohsin Kamal.

Bowling (to date): O M R W

McDermott	14	3	56	0
McGrath	17.3	6	47	1
Warne	25	6	96	2
May	22	5	48	2
Mark Waugh	2	0	4	0

AUSTRALIA: Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, Mark Waugh, David Boon, Justin Langer, Michael Bevan, Phil Emery, Tim May, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath, Shane Warne.

SALIM MALIK... 75 after his fine bowling in Sunday's one-day final and off-spinner Tim May replaced paceman Damien Fleming, nursing a sore shoulder.

May finally broke the third-wicket partnership by trapping Inzamam lbw in the afternoon

of play.

The first time since the

development.

In plain geographical terms

Israel is one of the most popular destinations for Soviet athletes who are either Jewish, or who have Jewish connections, and over the past five years there has been a steady influx of Soviet athletes to Israel.

The result is that now more than 40 per cent of Israel's elite pool of talent is of Soviet extraction.

And recent news that Ukrainians Inessa Kravets and Zhanna Tarnopolskaya are considering moving to Tel Aviv's elite Maccabi Club and taking Israeli citizenship highlights the transformation in Israeli athletics since the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

If Kravets, the Olympic and European long jump silver medalist and world indoor triple jump champion, and Tarnopolskaya, who won silver for Ukraine in the 100 and 200 metres in this summer's European Championships in Helsinki, switch nationalities, then it is unlikely to be long before Israel wins its first athletics medals in major competition.

Kravets, who is Jewish and Tarnopolskaya, who has a Jewish husband, are among a clutch of former Soviet athletes being urged to seek their fame and fortunes overseas.

Valentina Balakhrushev, president of the Russian Federation, reflected a view held by all the former Soviet states when he said that athletes should go abroad because of the lack of financial support and poor facilities in the former Soviet Union.

"There is complete freedom now and it is understandable that athletes should leave," he said. "We can't support our

athletes the way we used to under the state system. We're encouraging them to go elsewhere."

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Hans Sauerbrey, administrative director of the EAA, said:

"We decided to make them full members because they were isolated in the Asian association for political reasons."

And Sauerbrey's views were backed from an unlikely quarter on Wednesday, the day Israel signed its peace agreement with Jordan. The Algerian government gave its athletes approval to compete against Israelis for the first time.

From now on Algeria will not be boycotting multilateral games in which Israeli athletes take part," the Algerian official news agency APS quoted Youth and Sport Minister Sid Ali Lebbi as saying.

There are more than 20 Soviets coaching at a high level, far more than there are native Israelis. Of course, we don't yet know what effect that will have on our athletics. We will see that in a few years."

For the first time this summer, Israel placed two athletes in the finals of a major championship.

Pole vaulter Yevgeny Krasnov, eighth in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, finished seventh in Helsinki and raised the Israeli national record to a respectable 5.75 metres. Discus thrower Sergei Lukashok also reached his final in Helsinki, finishing 11th.

Although those results are significant for Israel, the fact Israel was competing as full members of the European Athletic Association (EAA) for

the first time was a historic development.

In the past Algeria, as a member of the Arab front, has rejected any contact with Israel.

While all of these changes are good for sport in Israel, there have been less savoury aspects of change.

On the negative side two former Soviets now wearing the star of David on their blue and white uniforms have tested positive for drugs.

Javelin thrower Vadim Bavkin and 400 metres hurdler Aleksey Bazarov have tested positive for steroids and received the maximum penalty of a four-year ban.

The changes in athletics are reflected elsewhere. Israeli soccer clubs now play in the three European Club competitions and its basketball clubs have had a fair measure of success in that sport's continent-wide competitions.

BEIJING, Nov 1: China, the realm of the bicycle, plans to launch its own professional cycling tour, modeled after the Tour de France, with the 1995 Tour of China, reports AP.

The 250,000 dollar race will start Oct 26 in Hong Kong, travel to the southern cities of Shenzhen and Canton and move to the eastern port city of Shanghai before its Nov 5 finale in the capital, Beijing, organizers said Tuesday.

Up to 14 top professional clubs and several national teams are expected to compete. The 1993 world champion, 22-year-old Lance Armstrong of Austin, Texas, is expected to be one of the 126 cyclists on the tour, organizers said.

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China's own Tour de France soon

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Pakistani Inzamamul Haq knows nothing about this one from Australian leggie Shane Warne as he tries a rather awkward sweep during the opening day's play of the third and final Test in Lahore yesterday. Inzamam made a fluent 66 while the hosts managed 255 for five at stumps.

— AFP photo

Williams' dream debut



OAKLAND, Calif.

Nov 1: On a Halloween night when many kids her age were trick-or-treating, 14-year-old Venus Williams turned

her pro tennis debut into a second gimp of the match. If Williams was nervous, she didn't show it. Stafford, 25, was the one who looked more out of control.

Williams played with a veteran's poise in beating No 59

Shaun Stafford 6-3, 6-4 showing off not only raw power on her serve and groundstrokes, but a deft touch with the occasional drop shot and lob.

The victory set up a match

Wednesday night between Williams and top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the French and US Open champion this year.

"I don't have to watch her," Sanchez said as she left before Williams took the court to go to the Rolling Stones concert next door. "I'm sure I'll be seeing a lot of her."

In Williams' first tournament of any kind since she was 14, she didn't even bother to sit between changeovers.

"Maybe she doesn't know she's allowed to sit," her coach, Rick Macci, said while watching her. "Maybe she thinks she needs a ticket."

There were more serious lapses in her game that were apparent to Macci. At one point, he wrote on his yellow pad, "Volley, Volley, Volley. Where is it?"

But he and Williams and her family could hardly be disappointed in so impressive a debut, even if there were only a few hundred fans in the Oakland Coliseum Arena. The media throng almost equalled the number of fans.

The nation's first all-race election in April brought Nelson Mandela and the Africa National Congress to power.

The government has yet to announce how much support it will give the Olympic bid.

Ackerman urged parliament to ignore opponents of the South African bid who say hosting the Olympics would cost too much when the country needs to concentrate on development to improve living conditions for millions of impoverished blacks.

"We have to explode the myth that hosting the Olympic Games would lose money," Ackerman said. "Since Los Angeles (in 1984), the Olympics have made money."

Officials gave examples of

plans to hold down costs such as having 27 cruise ships in Cape Town harbour to house Olympic visitors, rather than building new hotels.

International Olympic Committee officials are believed to favour South Africa, which was banned from participation for three decades because of apartheid but reinstated for the 1992 Games as the nation negotiated the end of white minority rule.

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Frenchmen Arnaud Boetsch and Lionel Roux also went

through to the next round

with wins over Peruvian Jaime Yzaga and German Karsten Braasch respectively.

Davis Cup hero Magnus Larsson of Sweden also reached the second round by

beating American Richéne Reneberg in straight sets.

Larsson, who beat Todd

Martin to give Sweden a 3-2

victory over the United States in a Davis Cup semifinal the last month, beat Reneberg 7-5, 6-4

in the opening match of the tournament.

Williams' first round

have her on the tour, 14 or not. She'll just need tennis in the right doses for the next several years."

Stafford helped Williams out by double-faulting five times, including three times in losing the second game of the match.

If Williams was nervous, she didn't show it. Stafford, 25, was the one who looked more out of control.

"I think, for the most part, both