

## Zakir, Sohail await BFF call

**Sports Reporter**

Abahani's midfielder Zakir Hossain along with teammate Sohail Reza are in the line to be reckoned as a part of what appears to be a relentless chopping and picking spree of the Bangladesh Football Federation to form a strong national team.

On completion of a week's training with 28 players at the BKSP residential camp at Savar, the South Korean Coach Man Young Kang recommended the two names, said a highly placed BFF official.

The newly appointed coach following Bangladesh's debacle in the Sixth SAF Games, it was learnt, also forwarded a proposal to drop six players from the present lot.

The six rather unfortunate booters are yet to be confirmed by the BFF.

## DU football, cricket results

**Sports Reporter**

Shaheen and Shafiquzzaman evened shared six goals as the Department of Philosophy romped past Psychology 6-0 in the Dhaka University inter-department football championship at the central university ground yesterday.

In a one sided affair the winners led 4-0 at the break.

Meanwhile, in the inter-department cricket championship, Economics recorded a convincing 38-run win over Soil Science at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Sent in to bat first, Economics scored a moderate total of 150 in the allotted 28 overs for eight wickets with Fahim notching a sparkling 76.

On a heavy outfield and dampish pitch caused by intermittent drizzle, Soil Science could muster 112 runs for seven in their chase for a victory target of 151.

Shaheen, who tore through the Soil Science batting, finished with a haul of six for 26 in his quota of five overs.

## Rear to Zimbabwe's relief

ADELAIDE, Nov 24: Zimbabwe fought back on the second day of their three-day match against the Australian Institute of Sport Cricket Academy, but still face a hard struggle to win the contest, reports AP.

The Academy XI had an overall lead of 147 at stumps Thursday with five second innings wickets in hand.

The young Australians were 121 for five in their second innings with Ian Harvey not out on 31 and wicketkeeper Craig Glasscock on seven. Corey Richards top-scored with 38.

Zimbabwe declared their first innings just before tea at 245 for nine, conceding a 26-run lead to the Academy XI.

Leg-spinner Paul Strang was the last man out, caught at long-on by Shane Jurgensen off the bowling of spinner Daniel Marsh for a brilliant 57.

Strang and Wayne James (59) put Zimbabwe back into the match with a quick 91-run stand for the seventh wicket which ended when James tried to smash a Matthew Nicholson half-volley through cover, only to edge it to the keeper.

Captain Andy Flower top-scored for the tourists with a stubborn 70 while paceman Shane Lee ended up with three for 45 from 17 overs for the Academy.

Marsh, the son of former Australian Test wicketkeeper Rod Marsh, followed his century Wednesday with a short but successful bowling stint that returned two for 23.

Bad light ended play nine minutes, just before a violent storm hit Adelaide.

**Scores:**  
Australian Institute of Sport Cricket Academy 271-7 declared and 121-5, Zimbabwe 245-9 declared (Andy Flower 70; Shane Lee 3-45).

## Dean Jones pads up again

MELBOURNE, Nov 24: Flamboyant Australian batsman Dean Jones ended a brief retirement from international cricket on Thursday by making himself available for the Ashes series against England, reports Reuter.

Jones, 33, who heads the Australian batting averages after a spectacular start to the domestic Sheffield Shield season, offered his services for both Test and limited-overs matches.

The Victoria state captain announced his retirement in April on his return from a disappointing tour to South Africa.

"If the selectors wish to consider me I would be pleased to represent any Australian XI," said Jones, who has scored two centuries in six innings this season at an average of 84.



Members of the Brothers Union team which retained the First Division chess league title yesterday with a round to go in the 17-team fray. — Star photo

## Brothers secure title

**Sports Reporter**

Brothers Union have retained First Division chess league title. Yesterday at the chess room of the National Sports Council, last year's champions put a premature end to this year's title race with a convincing win over Narayanganj Mashguli Mehfil whom they outwitted 3-1 to up their tally to 50 from 15 matches, an unfathomable position though a round is still to go in this 17-team fray.

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed and Indran Sharavanan were in the forefront of Brothers' final assault to defend the crown they had won last year.

Niaz took care of Mashguli's Milton while his teammate from across the border checkedmate Monir.

Once Niaz and Sharavanan reaped full points from their respective encounters it broke no squares on the eventual outcome when Abdullah Al Rakib and Hanif of Brothers drew their engagements against Monirul and Subrata.

Brothers, who confirmed their sixth league title since the commencement of the championship in 1977, had in their ranks: GM Niaz Murshed, Pakistani IM Mehmood Ahmed Lodhi, Sharavanan, Abdullah Al Rakib, Hasibul Hassan Hanif and Sheikh Anwar Hossain.

The Gopibaghi team's stay at the top for the second successive year meant Bangladesh Biman, another star-studded equipte was foiled in its bid to regain the title they lost in 1992.

Biman, who too won the ti-

tle on six occasions previously were left with the runners-up slot.

Yesterday they upped their tally to 44 with a facile victory over Sonali Bank.

Refaat bin Sattar, who recently won the QM Hossain International Masters' chess tournament leading up to the league, designed Biman's 3.5-5 triumph along with Fide Master Tahmidur Rahman and country's most seasoned female player Rani Hamid as the trio made short work of bankers Rashid, Shabbir and Tipu.

Women's national champion Tanina Parveen drew her match with Shawkat to spoil, unintentionally though, a complete rout of the bankers presently languishing at the end of the table with 13.5 points.

## Barisal soccer

**From Staff Correspondent**

BARISAL, Nov 24: Abahani Krira Chakra suffered a lone goal defeat at the hands of Fifth Armed Battalion in the Emma Overseas First Division football league at the local stadium today but still qualified for the next round beginning from November 27.

In a thrilling encounter Mustafa struck the all-important goal for the services team in the 23rd minute of the proceedings.

Abahani apart, three other teams bound for the next round are — Fifth Armed Battalion, Touch Video Club and Brothers Union.

Bangladesh Ansars stayed in the third position registering a narrowish 2.5-1.5 against Probhuba Daba Goshthi.

Dhaka University, who sprang a surprise recently by handing the champions one of their two defeats in the league beat Farashganj Sporting Club yesterday to hold the fifth spot after Bangladesh Textiles Mills Corporation (BTMC).

In day's other matches BTMC won against Genius Chess Club 3-1, Nur-e-Alam Khan Daba Sangsad prevailed over Narayanganj Chess Club 3.5-5 and Mahakhal Pradeep Sangha pipped Leonine Chess Club to the post 2.5-1.5.

The match between Bobby Fischer Chess Club and Konika Sangskritik Sangha ended in a draw.

The championship is scheduled to conclude today following the completion of the seventeenth round.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions
1977	Mohammedans
1978	Not
1979	Held
1980	Biman
1981	Mohammedans
1982	Brothers Union
1983	Bangladesh Biman
1984	Bangladesh Ansars
1985	Bengal Groups
1986	Biman
1987	Brothers
1988	do
1989	do
1990	Biman
1991	Biman
1992	Biman
1993	Brothers
1994	Brothers

## Weather protracts Damal Summer

**Sports Reporter**

Unseasonable wet weather and mild drizzle prevailing in the country for the last two days forced a decisive encounter of the 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament between Bangladesh Biman and Guishan Youth fall through at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday while Agram Bank recorded an emphatic seven-wicket win over Nirman Schools Eleven in a pointless encounter at the Mirpur City Club ground.

Weather permitting the Group E championship deciding match between Bangladesh Biman and Guishan will be held at the same venue today.

## Border to skipper Bradman XI

SYDNEY, Nov 24: Former Australian cricket captain Allan Border will lead a team of youngsters, including a 16-year-old schoolboy, for Sir Donald Bradman's XI against England at Bowral on Dec. 2, reports AP.

The Bradman XI include some of the finest young Sheffield Shield and first grade players in Australia and 16-year-old Dominic Thornely will be the youngest player to represent a Bradman selection.

The Bradman XI is: Allan Border (captain), Jason Amberger, Jamie Cox, Shane Lee, Dominic Thornely, Scott Thompson, Anthony Kershner, Jimmy Maher, Neil Maxwell, Mark Palmer, Kevin Robert.

## FINA bans Yang for two years

LAUSANNE, Nov 24: World champion Yang Aihua of China has been suspended for two years following a positive dope test, the International Swimming Federation (FINA) said in a statement on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Two samples of Yang's urine have confirmed excessive levels of the male hormone testosterone from testing conducted between September's World Championships in Rome, where she won gold in the 400 metres freestyle, and last month's Asian Games in Hiroshima.

The swimmer has been suspended for two years by the FINA executive in accordance with the rules, FINA said.



**YANG AIHUA**

"This late notice is due to a delay in the procedure in the analyses in the samples," FINA added.

A FINA spokesman said Yang would not be stripped of her world title because she tested negative in Rome.

But during a random out-of-competition test in Hiroshima on September 30, she was found to have an unusually high testosterone/epitestosterone ratio.

She became the fifth Chinese swimmer to have tested positive in the past two years and the second big name after world short-course 50 and 100 metres butterfly record holder Zhong Welyue.

## Taylor for twin tweakers

BRISBANE, Nov 24: Australian captain Mark Taylor indicated today he would play two spinners. Shane Warne and Tim May, in his attempt to extend England's ashes woes in the first cricket Test starting in Brisbane on Friday, reports Reuter.

The pitch at the Gabba ground traditionally favours fast bowlers, but it looks unusually dry and is expected to take turn as the match wears on.

On the eve of the Ashes series, Taylor told reporters there was a "strong possibility" May would partner leg-spinner Warne at the expense of one of

ern Australia in Perth recently, he added.

If May is selected, it is expected pace bowler Damien Fleming will be omitted.

England have chosen their team, but refused today to name it. "We don't see why we should give the Australians our line-up now to let them prepare accordingly," said team manager Keith Fletcher.

Debate among England tour selectors has revolved around whether Mike Gatting or John Crawley should bat at number six.

Crawley was thought to be favourite, but there were indications as England practised this morning that captain Mike Atherton may opt for Mike Gatting's experience.

"I think it's important to have the experience of winning and that's why people like Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting were chosen for the tour in the first place," Atherton said.

Stressing that England will go into the first cricket Test with confidence, and with no concerns about facing Australian spinner Shane Warne, Atherton said.

"I don't think there is a Warne phobia," Atherton said Thursday. "We have respect for him because you have to have respect for a high-class bowler. Equally, there's a few of us who did well against him last year."

"We have to pass on that knowledge and confidence to the rest of the team."

Atherton scored more than 500 runs in the 1993 series and nominated himself and former skipper Graham Gooch as two players who are able to dominate the leg-spinner.

Warne said his thoughts centre on his own form.

"I just have to be concerned about what I'm doing with my bowling and not worry about what they might be thinking," he said.

England have been thrashed 4-1, 3-0 and 4-0 in the last three Ashes series and Atherton said it is vital for his men to take a positive approach into the first Test.

"Our best performances in recent times have been when we have attacked," he said. "That's a policy I want to take into the game."

Gatting, 37, led England to an Ashes win in Australia in 1986-87 but has been out of form for most of the trip, managing only 170 runs in eight innings. Crawley has scored 207 runs in his eight innings.

England will be missing fast bowler Devon Malcolm who was struck down with chicken pox on Tuesday.

Martin McCague will join Phil DeFreitas and Darren Gough in the pace attack. But media reports suggesting the virus had spread to Australians Ian Healy and Michael Bevan



**TIM MAY**

proved unfounded and both will be available.

International Cricket Council match referee John Reid, who will umpire in all five Ashes Tests, issued "behave or else" warning to both teams today.

Reid said in a statement that he would try to prevent confrontations but if punishment was warranted, "Please be aware that the decision will not be a slap on the wrist."

In the three years since cricket's code of conduct was adopted, no player has been banned from a Test match.

## SA-New Zealand first Test today

## Hosts have a few worries

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 24: South Africa, already minus former captain Kepler Wessels and key strike bowler Allan Donald, could also be without wicketkeeper Dave Richardson for the first Test against New Zealand starting on Friday, reports Reuter.

Richardson, who is nursing an injured thumb, will be the only South African to have played in each of his country's 18 Tests since their return to international cricket if he takes the field against the New Zealanders.

Wessels has been struggling with a painful right knee since the Test series against Australia last year and needed fluid drained after the third Test against England in August.

"It's something we have just got to live with," coach Bob Woolmer commented. "It means that we haven't got his runs but that just means someone else has got to score them."

Donald has had an operation to remove a cyst from his right foot and is not expected to return to international duty until next year.

His absence reduces the

South African firepower considerably although Richard Snell, playing on his home ground, has taken wickets consistently this season.

South Africa despite losing all six games in a recent one-day triangular series in Pakistan, will start favourites, although the young New Zealanders have enjoyed a fine start to their tour.

Their top seven batsmen have all made runs and Dion Nash, the hero of the drawn Lord's Test against England this year, has started taking wickets.

"The preparation has been excellent," said coach Geoff Howarth. "Confidence is high, the form is good and there's a great feeling among the side."

"We have a 'young side which is inexperienced and we are in the course of the rebuilding process."

"But there comes a time when you have to leave behind those excuses, or reasons, for not doing well and start producing consistent results at Test match level. And I think this side is nearly at the stage."

The sides have not met since New Zealand hosted a series in 1964 when all three Tests ended in a draw. s

New Zealand last visited the republic in 1961-2 when a side led by John Reid drew an exciting series 2-2. Reid is the match referee for the Ashes series between Australia and England which opens in Brisbane on Friday.

"The guys are constantly reminded about the fact that it's more than 30 years since a tour but they are more into what they have got to do now than with what went on 33 years ago," Howarth said.

"They are pleased to be here and pleased to be back but they have a job of work to do. They are in good nick and they are, quietly confident."

## TEAMS

**SOUTH AFRICA** (from): Andrew Hudson, Gary Kirsten, Hansie Cronje (captain), Darryl Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, John Commins, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson or Steve Palfreman, Richard Snell, Clive Eksteen, Craig Matthews, Fanie de Villiers.

**NEW ZEALAND:** (Probable) Bryan Young, Darrin Murray, Stephen Fleming, Martin Crowe, Ken Rutherford (captain), Chris Harris or Shane Thomson, Adam Parore, Matthew Hart, Dion Nash, Simon Doull, Richard de Groen.

## Champs off to roaring start

SYDNEY, Nov 24: Dutch forward Taco van der Horst plundered a record haul of five goals as the hockey World Cup champions began their title defence with a crushing 8-1 defeat of neighbours Belgium today, reports Reuter.

The Netherlands have maintained their impressive form throughout 1994 to justify their position as tournament favourites and post a warning to their rivals in Group B.

Van der Horst's five goals, all scored with flicks from penalty corners, was the highest individual tally in World Cup matches.

"The Belgian keeper (Michel van Cost) kept coming out. I kept playing the same corner. It was hard for him to reach the high ball," said 28-year-old Van der Horst, scorer of 81 international goals.

His haul could have been even higher — the Dutch did not use him for their first three corners of the match.

It was the second time in his career that Van der Horst has scored five in an international, following a similar performance against Pakistan in the 1993 Champions Trophy.

The Dutch, who led 2-1 at halftime, had eight corners in

the match to Belgium's five.

The Dutch took an early lead through Stephan Veen but the teams were level at 1-1 until the last second of the first half, when Van der Horst converted the first of his corner goals.

Belgium's equaliser was scored by Alexandre de Chaffoy from a penalty corner which appeared to have been bungled. March Delissen, the Netherlands captain, was the dominant player on the field. He set his side on the way to their second-half goal spree with a penalty conversion after only 20 seconds of the interval re-start.

Van der Horst's four second-half goals.

## Hide says no deal

LONDON, Nov 24: Britain's World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion Herbie Hide has rejected a two million pounds sterling (£3.14 million dollars) offer to defend his title against American Riddick Bowe next year, reports Reuter.

Bowe lost his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles to Evander Holyfield last year.

"While I am confident of beating Bowe, I believe I should be paid the right amount of money for what will be my biggest fight," Hide said.

ond-half goals were interrupted by a second goal by Veen.

## INDIA EXACT REVENGE

India also opened with a victory, defeating Asian Games champions South Korea 2-0 with two second-half goals.

Gavin Ferreira scored in the 60th minute and Edward Aranha scored an insurance goal a minute later as India gained revenge for their 3-2 loss to the Koreans in last month's Asian Games final in Hiroshima, Japan.

Ferreira scored from a one-two move off a penalty corner and left wing Aranha slotted home an unselfish pass from centre-forward Pillay Dhanraj moments later.

Shakeel Ahmed had missed with a penalty stroke in the 48th minute, while Anil Aldrin had a penalty corner goal disallowed in the first half.

"We changed tactics at halftime and in the second half we came into our own," said Indian coach Cedric D'Souza.

Korean coach Kim Sang-ryul blamed poor preparation for his team's defeat.

"This is our first World Cup and we don't have experience in big tournaments," he said.

First round matches continue through Nov. 30 with the top two teams from each group advancing to the semifinals on Dec. 2. The final is slated for Dec. 4.

## M United, AC Milan tumble

PARIS, Nov 24: IFK Gothenburg, Ajax, Benfica and Hajduk Split joined unbeaten Paris St Germain in the quarterfinals of the European Champions' Cup on Wednesday — leaving the other three berths to be decided in the final league matches in two weeks' time, reports AFP.

Swedish champions IFK Gothenburg took top spot in Group A when they scored a 3-1 win over Manchester United.

But the English Premiership side who will be at home to Galatasaray in two weeks time, could still reach the last eight following Barcelona's 2-1 away loss to the Turks.

Barcelona, who are one point clear of Manchester United, face Gothenburg in their last league match.

In Group B, Bayern Munich, beaten by a 78th minute goal by Paris St Germain's experienced Liberian striker George Weah, now travel to Dynamo Kiev hoping that Spartak Moscow, 1-0 winners over the Ukrainians, will go down in their clash with PSG in the French capital.

Benfica beat Croatian opponents Hajduk Split 2-1 but both sides are safely through to the quarterfinals since Steaua Bucharest and ten man Anderlecht, who have no wins in their five matches, drew 1-1.

The Belgian side lost Babayaro after just 36 minutes when he was shown a second yellow card.

Group D saw AC Milan slump to another humiliation, the Italians, who were deducted two points following a crowd incident during their

Marcello means mess

MARSEILLE, Nov 24: Former European soccer champions Marseille were in more trouble on Wednesday after their financial director Alain Laroche was placed under judicial control in an inquiry over the French club's accounts, reports Reuter.

Laroche, who had already been placed under investigation in the same case, has been ordered to pay 300,000 francs (56,391 dollars) bail, judicial sources said.

Former Marseille president Bernard Tapie has already been placed under investigation in the inquiry.

home match against Casino Salzburg, crashed 2-0 at home to Ajax — a result which propelled the unbeaten Dutch side into the next stage of the competition.

Ajax sank Milan with goals from Finland's Jari Litmanen and an own-goal from veteran defender Franco Baresi, and Milan will now need to win in Austria in their return against Casino Salzburg if they are to reach the last eight.

Salzburg will need only a draw to go through after chalking up their first win when they defeated AEK Athens 3-1 away. Heimo Pfeiferberger headed home two early killer goals to put Casino 2-0 clear after just nine minutes.

Vlahos, also with a header, pulled one back for AEK in the 29th minute, but Ralf Hasen-hutle settled the tie with a quarter-hour to go when he finished off a sharp counter attack with a neat shot.

Gothenburg's Jesper Blomqvist, back from a hamstring injury, opened the scoring against Manchester United after 10 minutes — beating the English side's off-side trap. But Mark Hughes, who misses next month's home match against Galatasaray after receiving his second yellow card

of the tournament, kept United in the hunt by equalising from the penalty spot after the break.

There was no time for celebration, however.

Magnus Erlingmark scored a second for the Swedes from the restart and Pontus Karmark put the issue beyond doubt with a penalty 18 minutes from time.

To make matters worse, Manchester, who crashed 4-0 to Bracelona in their previous group match, had Paul Ince sent off in the second half.

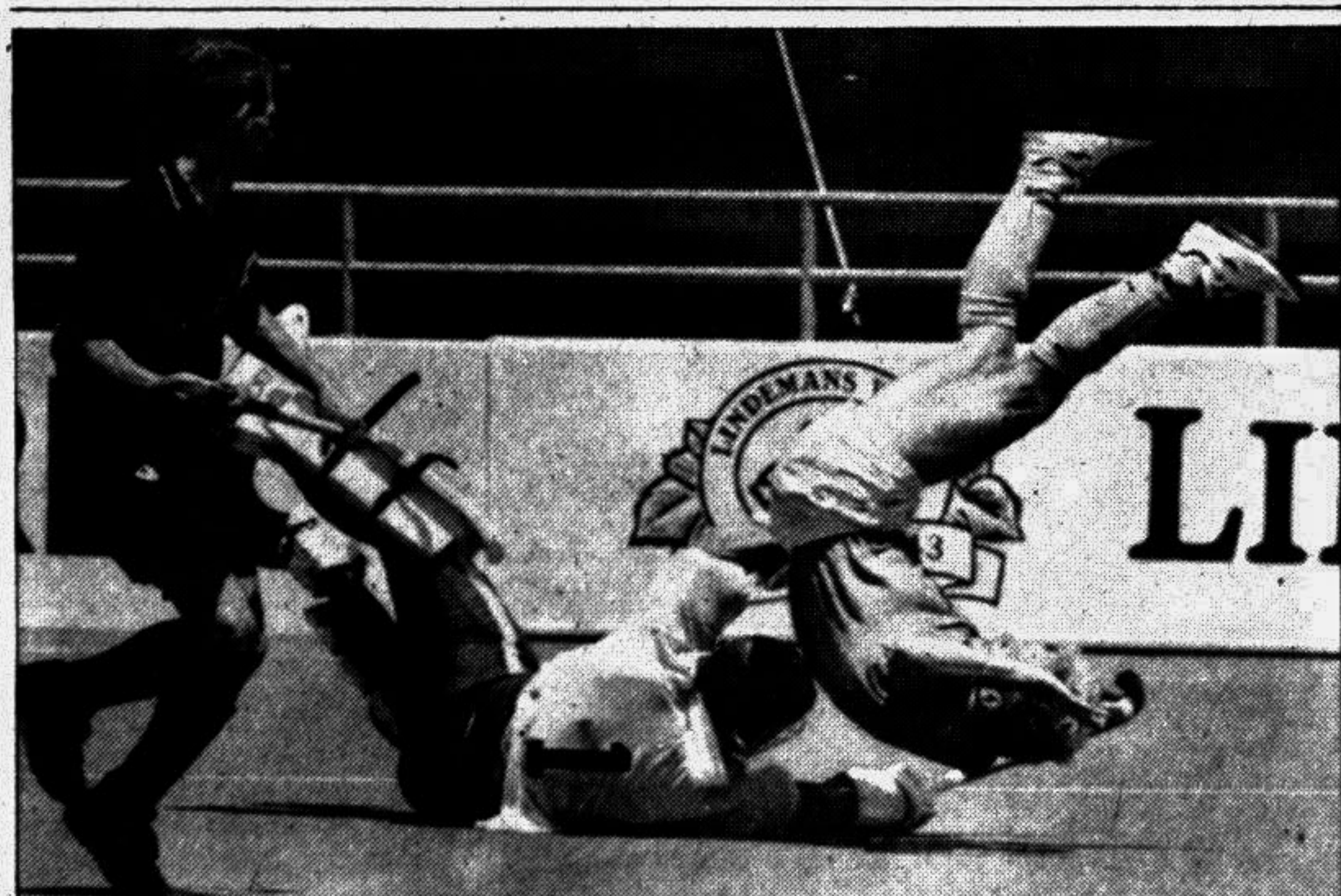
United manager Alex Ferguson offered no excuses for his side's failure.

"It was a terrible result for us," he said, adding: "We cannot expect to come away with anything from matches like this when we concede goals like we did in Barcelona and again tonight."

"I've no idea what went wrong. We were just not good enough."

A brilliant piece of individual skill by Liberian substitute George Weah ensured Paris Saint Germain kept their 100 per cent record.

The French champions were the only side already assured of qualification before Wednesday's matches.



Dutch player Remco van Wijk (R) tumbles after colliding with his goalie during a World Cup hockey match against Belgium in Sydney yesterday. The Netherlands dunked the Belgians 8-1. — AFP photo