

Sport



England batsman Mike Gatting drives one to the cover fence during his superb unbeaten knock of 114 against Queensland Bulls at the Nerritite Oval in Toowoomba yesterday.

—AFP photo

Gatting powers England



TOOWOOMBA. Australia, Dec 17: Veteran Mike Gatting scored an unbeaten century Saturday as England made a superb start to their tour cricket match against the powerful Queensland state team at Heritage Park, reports AP.

Gatting was unbeaten on 114 at stumps with England 355-5 after the first day.

John Crawley scored 91, Graham Gooch added 50 and Graeme Hick made 49 as England rebounded from their humiliating loss to Zimbabwe in a World Series match in Sydney on Thursday.

The England batsmen punished a Queensland attack that included Australian Test spearhead Craig McDermott and Australia A international Greg Rowell.

Gatting, who has performed poorly on tour, shared a fourth-wicket stand of 202 with Crawley — England's best partnership of the tour.

Gatting, who had only two half centuries in his last 15 innings, snared 15 boundaries.

The good start provided respite for England manager Keith Fletcher and captain Mike Atherton, both of whom have been criticised for their team's poor performances.

Fletcher said Saturday that he has no intention of resigning.

"It's entirely up to the journalists what they write, but I've still got two-and-a-half years of my contract to go and I intend to see things through," Fletcher said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps Saturday, first day of the four-day cricket match between England and the Queensland state team at Heritage Park:

ENGLAND: 1st innings
Gooch c Rowell b McDermott 50
Atherton b Tazelaar 6
Hick c Love b Rowell 49
Gatting not out 114
Crawley c Law b Kasprowicz 91
Rhodes lbw Kasprowicz 0
Udal not out 14
Extras : 31
TOTAL : (for five wickets) 355

Fall of wickets : 16: 106; 118; 320; 330.

Bowling : O M R W
Craig McDermott 21 3 87 1
Dirk Tazelaar 18 4 60 1
Andrew Symonds 10 2 51 0
Greg Rowell 21 5 66 1
Mike Kasprowicz 18 2 71 2
Jimmy Maher 1 0 5 0
Matthew Hayden 1 0 5 0
Batting time: 377 minutes.
Overs: 90.

"We've got to play a lot better, but we've got the ability on our side," he said. "The most important thing is that we get runs, and if we can do that, we can put Australia under pressure."

Page bowler Darren Gough may miss that match, however, after suffering an injury to his

ACOG for tight security

ATLANTA. Dec 17: Thousands of private guards in uniforms with a symbol of the American West on the sleeve will help provide security for the 1996 Olympics under a multi-million-dollar contract announced on Monday, reports AP.

Borg Warner Security will provide security officers, ticket takers and ushers to stand guard along with per-

Taking on the Atlantic

PARIS. Dec 17: A 42-year-old Frenchman set out on Friday to become the first person to swim across the Atlantic Ocean, reports Reuter.

France Info Radio said Guy Delage from Nantes in western France began the epic journey from the Cape Verde islands off the West African coast and hopes to swim the 2,100 miles (3,900 kms) to the Caribbean island of Martinique in 60 to 90 days.

"This is not a suicidal operation. This is a risk I'm willing to take," Delage told the radio station.

Delage had intended to start out on Thursday but delayed the swim for a day due to bad weather.

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Träuscht said some of the Olympic guards would be drawn from the company's existing ranks in Georgia and Florida, "but the bulk of the people will be hired locally." Borg-Warner will be responsible for hiring, training and screening applicants, including checking for drug use, the official said.

Neither he nor William Rathburn, ACOG's chief of security, would discuss the number of security personnel involved. But it will be a large group to handle venues ranging from white-water kayaking in Ocoee, Tennessee, to yachting in Savannah, Ga.

Financial terms of the deal — Borg-Warner gets to call itself "official protective services sponsor of the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games" — were not disclosed. Similar sponsorships have been fetching about 10 million dollars for ACOG.

Part of Borg-Warner's worldwide empire is Wells-Fargo, the old stagecoach line of innumerable Western movies and the company that provided private security guards for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

The symbol of Wells-Fargo, a Pony Express rider in silhouette, will be drawn into the company's Olympic emblem and worn as a patch on uniform shoulders. And those uniforms will be brighter and more cheerful than the starkly serious white shirt and black tie that the company's guards usually wear.

"We can't stop the Games for security," he said. "It is a sporting event, not a security event. We know we have to get people in and out, and we won't sacrifice security for that."

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