AP honours

Barry Sanders

Sanders fell short of 2,000

yards. That was about the only

milestone he didn't topple on

his way to being selected the

1994 Associated Press

American National Football

League Offensive Player of the

back of the Detroit Lions

rushed for 1,883 yards this

season, the best in the NFL by

338 yards - three games work

for many pros. His total was

the fourth best in league his-

tory, and he did it without any

help from another running

back or a block-until-you-drop

The sensational running

Year, reports AP,

fullback

NEW YORK, Dec 29: Barry

South Africa stay on top

DURBAN, Dec 29:

Martin Crowe be came New Zeascorer in Test cricket on Wednesday but was unable to prevent South Africa taking control of

Crowe passed John Wright's tally of 5,334 runs when he had made four in New Zealand's second innings but he was dismissed for only 10 as they slipped to 48 for three and an overall lead of just seven when batt light ended

the second Test, reports Reu-

play early on the third day. It would have been even worse for New Zealand if Andrew Hudson, at second slip, had not dropped a chance off Brian McMillan when opener Bryan Young had scored 10.

Young survived to reach 18 not out in 134 minutes from 106 balls.

South Africa owed their strong position to some fine work with both bat and ball by Fanie de Villiers.

He helped rescue their first innings with 28 in a lastwicket stand of 44 with Dave Richardson and then added to his five first innings wickets with an early strike when New Zealand batted again.

When De Villiers joined Richardson a few minutes before lunch South Africa, resuming at 122 for five, had slipped to 182 for nine.

They stayed together until an hour after lunch to give their side a useful fight innings lead of 41.

De Villiers' dismissal gave Simon Doull, who had earlier received an official warning for running on to the pitch, his second five-wicket haul in Test cricket. He finished with five for 73.

Richardson again played with great sense and composure to top-score with 39 not

When New Zealand batted a second time. McMillan picked up two wickets as well as having Hudson dropped.

He induced Ken Rutherford to play his second rash pull shot of the match to provide John Contmins with a catch at mid-wicket and then produced an excellent inswinger which nicked the inside of Crowe's bat and carried to wicketkeeper Richardson.

De Villiers had made the initial breakthrough by trap-

Ifway on the way to collecting

row. Now they are a point

behind last season's runners-

up, Blackburn, with the others

a further six points adrift.

up that won the title last sea-

son. United have failed to win

a third of their 21 games this

term while Rovers, with Chris

Sutton teaming up in attack

with Alan Shearer, is the divi

to meet Crystal Palace who ha

ve not scored for seven games

while United go to face So-

uthampton, who have leaked

the Dell to improve their goals

differential. After being held 1-

1 at home by next to last

Leicester Wednesday, however,

manager Alex Ferguson cursed

chances to have won the

game," he said. "We did have

fantastic pressure in the sec-

ond half, but we did not get

nity to go top because Black

burn's field was waterlogged

United wasted an opportu-

enough quality crosses in."

"We did not create enough

his team's lack of firepower.

United need a big victory at

goals from 20 games.

sion's highest scorer with 44

On Saturday, Rovers travel

With virtually the same line-

reports AP.

36 in 21.

their second league title in a

This time last

year. Manchester

United were 13

points clear of

their rivals at ha-

ping Darrin Murray leg before for nought with only two runs on the board.

SCOREBOARD

play on the third day Wednes-

day of the second cricket Test

between South Africa and New

Zealand at Kingsmead Stadium

Villiers 5-64; McMillan 3-40).

A Hudson c Young b Morrison

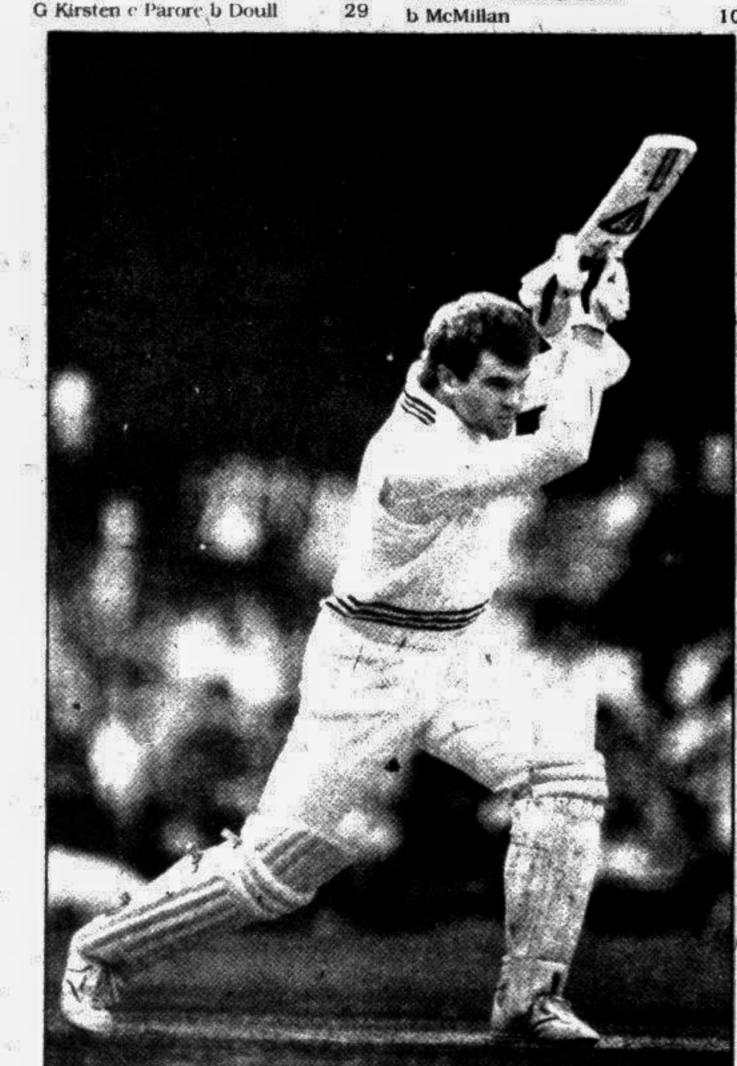
NEW ZEALAND: 1st innings

Scoreboard at the close of

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-61; 3-110: 4-111: 5-122: 6-141: -7-168; 8-182; 9-182. Bowling 70 Morrison 73 Doull

-2 54 Hart 15 5 23 Pringle NEW ZEALAND: 2nd innings 13 Young not out

185 (S Thomson 82: De D Murray lbw b De Villiers K Rutherford c Commins SOUTH AFRICA: 1st innings b McMillan M Crowe c Richardson



ghest Kiwi run-getter

	MARTIN CROWE	hi	Ę
	J Commins c Hart b Doull	30	
	D Cullinan lbw b Doull	34	
	H Cronje c Thomson b Morrison	19	
	J Rhodes c Fleming b Hart	1	
	B McMillan b Doull	17	
	D Richardson not out	39	
9	C Matthews c Parore b Morrison	7	
	S Jack c Crowe b Morrison	0	
	F De Villiers c Fleming b Doull	28	
	Extras: (lb-6, nb-8)	1.4	
	Total:	226	
-			-

M United at crossroads

Now Rovers have a game in

hand and a one-point advan-

tage. Ferguson's team daren't!

slip up at Southampton Satur-

day because Rovers have the

chance to move four points

formance against lowly Lei-

cester, however, Ferguson mu-

st decide whether to make

changes. He is restricted by

injuries to England players

Paul Parker, Lee Sharpe and

Paul Ince but players of the

calibre of Ryan Giggs and

Andrei Kanchelskis are øver-

place by winning 2-0 against

Manchester City Wednesday

and now go to sixth place

have regained the goalscoring

form that briefly deserted

them recently and the team is

again playing with confidence

that was missing in the previ-

have a tough game at seventh-

place Norwich while Notting-

ham Forest, who are fifth and

seven points behind the lea-

ders, travel to West Ham, who

have slipped to just above the

bed to eighth-place and have

not conceded a goal in four

games, go to Coventry. Their

north London neighbour, Ar-

Tottenham, who have clim-

Fourth place Newcastle

ous two seasons.

relegation zone.

Liverpool jumped into third

Robbie Fowler and Ian Rush

due good performances.

After the disappointing per-

nst Leeds was called off.

S Fleming not out Extras: (lb-2, nb-2) Total: (3 wkts) Overs: 29.3 Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-11; Bowling

De Villiers 16 McMillan 3.3

ddle of the standings instead

of challenging for the title.

hope to gain three points from

the visit of erratic Queens Park

tumbled 2-0 at home to

Arsenal Wednesday on the day

they hired George Burley as

manager, visit Everton, who

are only two places higher and

are still stinging from a 4-1

home loss to Sheffield Wed-

both suffering spells of hot

and cold form, meet at Stam-

ford Bridge and Sheffield Wed-

nesday hope to gain more

points from their visit to next

the relegation zone, aim to

follow up their 3-0 beating of

Chelsea with a victory at

Manchester City, who have

slipped down to halfway after

teams, all on the same points.

Second-place Wolves visit

sixth-place Barnsley, Bolton

visit lowly West Bromwich

Albion and Reading Host mid-

teams, Rangers and Mo-

seventh title in a row and with

Danish striker Brian Laudrup

in outstanding form, have a

seven-point lead over the ho-

me team and will stretch that

therwell, meet at Fir Park.

In Scotland, the top two

Rangers, aiming for their

Behind Boro come three

Aston Villa, another team in

Chelsea and Wimbledon,

Last place lpswich, who

Rangers.

nesday.

to last Leicester.

some patchy results.

standings Grimsby.



ROBERTO BAGGIO The Turin team trails leaders Parma by one point with a game in hand midway through

the Serie A season. Baggio, 1993 Europeanplayer-of-the-year, is due to return in a key match against Parma when action resumes on January 8.

DAYTON, Ohio, Dec 29: Tony Meola, the former goalkeeper of the US national team, made his debut in American indoor soccer Wednesday night, playing for the Buffalo Blizzard in a 13-11 loss to the Dayton Dynamo, reports AP.

Meola made 19 saves in the National Professional Soccer League game. He signed with Buffalo on Dec 14 and will be in a three-keeper rotation for the Blizzard the rest of the

other goals.

The pony-tailed Meola had not played competitive seccer since the US national team lost to Brazil in the second round of the World Cup. After the tournament he tried out as a place kicker with the New York Jets of the American National Football League.

Clark Brisson scored the winning goal for Dayton (10-8) with 12:09 left, ending a fivegame winning streak for Buffalo (8-7).

Courier accepts wild card entry

ADELAIDE, Dec 29: American Jim Courier has accepted a wild card entry into the Australian men's hardcourt tennis championship, which starts in Adelaide on Monday, tournament officials said Thursday, reports AP.

Courier, a two-time former

Australian Open and French

Open champion, will use the tournament as a warm-up for the Australian Open, which begins Jan 16 in Melbourne. Courier did not win a title in 1994 and has fallen to the

13th in the world after being ranked No 1 for 58 weeks between 1991 and 1993. Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia

will return to Adelaide to defend the title he won last year and has been named as top seed for the tournament, which will be played on synthetic Rebound Ace court at the Memorial Drive Arena.

His rivals will include Courier, Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands and South African Wayne Ferreira.

Courier will stay in Adelaide after the hardcourt tournament to play the six-man invitational Adelaide International Challenge, an exhibition event which boasts Andre Agassi as its main drawcard.

Juventus may need \$30m to keep Baggio

SESTRIERE, Italy, Dec 29: Italian club Juventus said on Wednesday they wanted to keep World Cup star Roberto Baggio but were unwilling to break the bank to do so, reports Reuter.

Baggio's contract with Juventus expires at the end of the season and speculation has been rife that the striker could join a foreign club willing to stump up in excess of 30 million dollars to buy the player and pay his contract for three

"We want to keep Baggio," Antonio Giraudo, managing director of the Turin team, told Ansa news agency in an interview from this Italian Alpine

"But obviously we will not be able to compete with a Japanese club that eventually offered Poberto Baggio a 30 million dollar deal," he added.

Baggio, 27, has been hampered by injury this season but veteran striker Gianluca Vialli and rising star Alessandro Del Piero have more than made up for his absence.

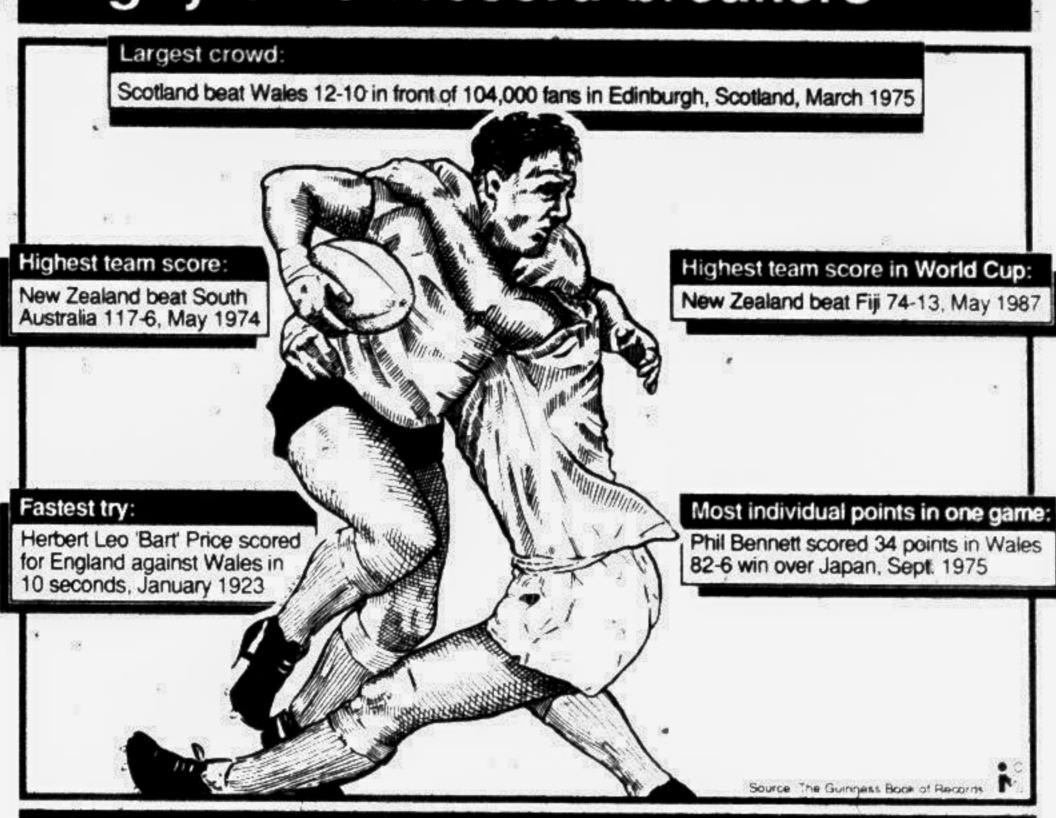


Meola in mire

The NPSL, which has 12 teams, is a six-a-side version of the indoor game played on an artificial-turf covered ice hockey rink. There are twominute time penalties for major fouls and points are awarded for goals: three if the goal is scored from 45 feet (13.7 metres) or more, one if it scored in a shootout or on a play, and two for all

Dennis Brose, the leading scorer in the NPSL, scored the first goal on Meola 29 seconds into the game on a free-kick that started a 9-0 run. Meola then settled down and played solidly the rest of the way.

Rugby Union record-breakers



All Blacks try to put new power into their war dance

by John Richardson in Auckland

1995 team. John Hart, an

Auckland coach, announced in

late August that he wants to be

Once the most feared side in international rugby, the New Zealand All Blacks have fallen on hard times. A string of defeats has, Gemini News Service reports, increased the pressure on the team and led to infighting as the side prepares for next year's World

EW Zealand's All Blacks are rugby's most feared side. When they take to the field and perform their legendary haka - the Maori war dance - victory usually

But a poor international season which saw them win just two of their final seven matches has led to internal squabbles and plunged the team into crisis less than nine months before the 1995 World Cup in South Africa.

The shambles of the past year has put coach Laurie Mains under intense pressure. Many fans and critics would like to see the back of him. They blame the All Blacks' turmoil on his inability to get the balance of the team right.

Mains has responded to the criticism by alleging a conspiracy to undermine him. Regional lines have been drawn up, highlighting the parochialism that blights New Zealand rugby.

Following a mid-August loss to arch-rivals and defending World Cup champions Australia, the plight of the All Blacks seemed to take over as the nation's major problem. Radio talk shows, newspapers and television programmes put the team under a microscope.

All Blacks rugby knows no compromises. In the late 1980s they were supreme, especially with the absence from world sport of the South Africans - whom they regard as their greatest rivals. In 1987 they won the first World Cup, though were defeated by eventual champions Australia in the 1991 semi-final. Those were the days of

coach Alex "Grizz" Wyllie and goal-kicking phenomenon Grant Fox, the little General who masterminded All Blacks victories. Many fans see the downfall of the All Blacks as coinciding with the retirement of Fox.

1 Jeff Smith, 40 CCX

ACROSS

5 Barn

12 Frost

13 "The jig

14 Honest

17 First

neighbor

9 Mid-May

honoree

politician

name of

18 Cheese

19 Tried for

21 A-OK

22 Swagger

24 Iditarod

27 Father's

31 Historic

period

33 Indicate

it's OK

36 Treasure

34 Attic stash

seeker's

37 On in years

32 "A Chorus

Line" song

terminus

Day gift

28 Verdi opus

54 Across

ingredient

the Amer-

ica's Cup

15 Pat Boone 51

That belief was further Now, one of the chief archi-

struck

DOWN

1 Burn

3 Make

6 Equi-

4 Surrey

slightly

2 Clinton's

hometown

adornment

8 Phantom's 30 Put two

5 Sediment

7 Schisgal

bailiwick

goings-on

instrument

Buscaglia

CHAD

9.Parade

11 Fix

16 Author

20 Simile

Solution time: 22 mins.

DUCKSOUP

SILL HIC SOFA

SALAD MOB POX

KAYAKS SNORTS

ELOI THEGROUP ETON EON ABBE POPE SET LEAD

ERIENOM

ESTEEM INSAN

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

38 Disney film

times V

41 Hellene's

ending

source

Rose Lee

"-- Miss

Brooks"

52 Brother

of Er

53 Product

54 Tarzan

55 Specs

of coal

distillation

portrayer

wearer's

GETA SEC

choice

56 Dumb-

43 Nectar

47 Salt

—" 48 Sister of

faith has vanished. There is no doubt that New tects of the past two World Cup sides is positioning himself to ride to the rescue of the

the next All Blacks coach. may not be easy. Hart announced his decision to go for the top job - and a battle with entrenched Mains - by appealing for an end to the parochial attitudes that pit North Island against South Island, and, it seems, every-

body else against Auckland. He said he is a New Zealander, not an Aucklander. The New Zealand Rugby Union meets on September 15 to pick the three-man selection panel which will choose the coach and the team. Hart now joins Mains and four others to contest those three places. Hart was on the selection panel of the All Blacks

World Cup and was co-coach of the team in 1991. Mains and Hart were on the selection panel three years ago when Mains got the coaching job. This time, with a lacklustre record behind him, Mains could find himself on the out-

when they won the 1987

The recent run of defeats began in late 1993. New Zealand, having slaughtered Scotland at Murrayfield, went to Twickenham to meet England at the end of what had been a 100 per cent successful tour. The All Blacks were defeated 15-9 in a gruelling match by the side which made it to the finals of the 1991 World Cup.

That hurt. Not just because it spoiled an otherwise faultless tour but because of the belief in New Zealand that Southern Hemisphere rugby is far superior to anything the Northern Hemisphere can conjure up.

shaken when France visited New Zealand in June and July of this year and beat the All

22 Red Sea

23 Bewail

peninsula

insurance

24 Trapezist's

25 Partner of

plata

Taylor's

domain

27 Sepulcher

and two

together

37 Guanaco's

course of

cousin

39 Primary

study

40 -- - jongg

41 Nebraska

Indian

handle

44 Acknowl-

edge

45 Oxen's

46 Scored

100

49 Verse

43 Bill-signing

souvenirs

connection

opener?

50 "Platoon"

setting

42 Man-

mous John

29 Anony-

35 Droop

26 Sheriff

Between now and the World Cup, the All Blacks must rebuild. In 1991 the team and its supporters believed unshakeably that they would lift the championship trophy. That

Blacks in both matches

Zealand has the depth of talent to put together a winning team. Rugby is the nation's major sport and an institution. But finding that winning combination amidst the politicking

- GEMINI NEWS JOHN RICHARDSON, is a journalist based in Auckland.

Nunez leaves hospital

BANGKOK, Dec 29 : Boxer Danny Nunez of the Dominican Republic, who suffered head injuries in an unsuccessful title challenge earlier this week. was released from the hospital in good condition Thursday, a nurse said, reports AP.

Nunez, the eighth-ranked challenger, was handed an 11th-round TKO by reigning World Boxing Association flys weight champion Saen Sor Ploenchit Sunday.

Nunez, 27, lost consciousness right after the fight and was taken to Bangkok's Bamrungrad Hospital, where he was diagnosed as having hemorrhaging and swelling of the brain. Nunez's condition gradually

improved during his four-day stay in intensive care. Doctors declared him fit enough to be discharged and on Friday make the journey back to the Dominican Republic. After Nunez was released

Thursday morning he was to spend the remainder of the day as the guest of Thai boxing promoter Songchai Ratanasuban. The promoter said he wanted to host a dinner for Nunez and pay for his hotel room and flight home because he wanted to show the kind nature of the Thai people.

The injury was the first of its kind for Nunez, who has a career record of 25 wins and three losses. Saen now has an 18-0 record

Only four players received votes in balloting by a nation wide panel of 98 sports writers and broadcasters. Sanders had 53 votes, followed by record-setting quarterback Steve Young of San Francisco with 41. Young's teammate. wide receiver Jerry Rice, got three votes, and Cris Carter of Minnesota got the other one.

Young set an NFL record with a 112.8 passing rating. completing 324 of 461 passes for 3,969 yards and 35 touchdowns. Young also rushed for 293 yards and seven TDs.

Rice, last year's winner of the award, set the career touchdowns record with 139 and moved into second place in receptions with 820. He had a career-high 112 catches for 1.499 yards and 13 TDs receiving, plus two TDs rushing, Carter broke Sterling

Sharpe's mark for receptions in a season by grabbing 119 passes for 1.256 yards and seven touchdowns All four players made the AP

All-Pro team. Sanders is the first Lion to win the award. Sanders has been a star

since winning the Heisman Trophy as the top player in American college football in 1988, and was the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year in 1989. In his six pro seasons. Sanders has rushed for 8.672 yards, an average of 1,445 per year. The fewest yards he gained in any of those seasons was 1,115 in 1993, when he was injured and missed five

In all, Sanders rushed for at least 110 yards in 10 games. "Barry is just a tremendous talent coach Wayne Fontes

Malcolm to defend WBF title BRISBANE, Dec 29. World

Boxing Federation welter weight champion Jeff Malcolm of Australia has signed to make two defences of his title within a month, reports AP.

The 38-year-old will first defend against William Magahin of the Philippines over 12 rounds in Ileilo City south of Manila, on Feb 25.

He has then agreed to fight rising Indonesian star Suwito Lagola in Medan. Indonesia in late March if he beats Megahin Malcolm is the oldest man

to win any version of the world welterweight title. He won the vacant WBF title against Sovita Tabuarua in Fiii on March 19 and defended it

with a knockout of Filipino Tata Regatuna in Brisbane in Malcolm has compiled an

83-24-10 record over more than two decades as a professional fighter but lost a non-ti tle fight against former world champion Morris East in the Philippines two months ago.

and the scheduled game agaisenal, languishing in the mito 10 if they win.

Sixty-nine-year-old South Korean real estate broker Lee Chin-Yong grimaces as he breaks his own Guinness Book of Records title for the most consecutive chin-ups by any human in Seoul yesterday. Lee, who managed 370 chin-ups in 1988, made 612 before collapsing. He pledged to break the 700 mark by fall of next year. - AFP photo

CRYPTOQUIP UTMDD PGFP PGM

UXFBBFXNFO REOA ER YMXNEA N D RTXONPTXM

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY ANNOYING NEIGH-BOR BOTHERS ME ONLY THREE TIMES A DAY: MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals P The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.