

# England reverse trend

**BRISBANE, Jan 7** — England recovered from the anguish of their Ashes series loss to Australia two days ago by defeating Zimbabwe by 26 runs in their World Series Cup one-day cricket match here today, reports AFP.

It was England's first win over the Zimbabweans in three limited over internationals after a 13-run loss in Melbourne on December 13 and a nine-run defeat during the 1992 World Cup in Australia.

England looked to have scored a meagre 200 for eight total, but spearheaded by paceman Darren Gough and Phil DeFreitas they dismissed Zimbabwe for 174 with 11 balls to spare.

England's victory lifted them into equal second place with Australia A on level games behind unbeaten leaders Australia with matches left against Australia in Melbourne on Tuesday and Australia A in Sydney next Thursday.

Man-of-the-match Graham Thorpe had the top score for England with a smashing 89 off 122 balls, but the effort took its toll and the Surrey left-hander did not field in Zimbabwe's innings.

He was taken to hospital suffering from dehydration in the stifling Brisbane humidity.

Gough, the man-of-the-match in the drawn Sydney Test with a swashbuckling innings of 51 and career best Test figures of 6-49, was economical, taking 2-17 off 9.1 overs while DeFreitas claimed 2-28.

England were boosted in the field by the sharpness of recent addition Neil Fairbrother, who despite being run out for seven, saved many runs with diving saves inside the circle when Zimbabwe came into bat.

Fairbrother has flown to Australia this week as cover for all-rounder Craig White, who was today ruled out of the remaining four games.

Zimbabwe looked a chance early when skipper Andy Flower, coming in at No. four, hit 52 off 60 balls, while all-rounder Guy Whittall had a top score of 53 from 74 deliveries.

Once Flower was caught behind by Rhodes off Gough leaving Zimbabwe 103 for four, it was all uphill for Zimbabwe.

With five overs left, Zimbabwe needed 41 runs to win and the Africans did not have the tail end firepower to kick up the tempo to score the required runs.

In England's first innings, Thorpe cracked seven fours to lead the scoring.

England struck early trouble when Graham Gooch played a delivery from paceman David Brain onto his wicket for a duck off the fourth ball of the innings.

Zimbabwean-born Graeme Hick fell to a catch behind by Andy Flower off Heath Streak for eight to leave England shaky at 20 for two.

But Thorpe and captain Mike Atherton put on 52 runs

after we got Andy Flower out," Flower said he thought Zimbabwe had a good chance of overhauling England's 200 score, but things went wrong after their batsmen were contained to under two an over in the first 10 overs.

"We went in without David Houghton, our mainstay in the middle order, so I decided to fill in at No. 4, but after I got out we struggled for runs," he said.

"We are disappointed not to be playing in the finals, but we are playing against good sides and we are still a young team."

"We put up a fight, but we lack a bit in our batting, especially in the middle order."

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard in the World Series limited-overs international between England and Zimbabwe today.

**ENGLAND:**

G Gooch b Brain	0
M Atherton lbw Martin	26
G Hick c A Flower b Streak	8
G Thorpe c Brain b Strang	89
N Fairbrother run out	7
J Crawley lbw G Flower	14
S Rhodes at A Flower b Dekker	20
D Gough c Campbell b Dekker	4
P DeFreitas not out	12
S Udal not out	11
Extras (lb-4, lb-2, w-3)	9
Total (for eight wickets, 50 overs)	200

Fall: 1-0; 2-20; 3-72; 4-82; 5-107; 6-164; 7-170; 8-182.

Did not bat: J Benjamin.

**Bowling**

	O	M	R	W
Brain	8	0	27	1
Streak	7	1	26	1
Whittall	5	0	19	0
Martin	5	1	15	1
Peall	5	0	19	0
Strang	10	0	42	1
G Flower	3	0	16	1
Dekker	7	0	30	2

**ZIMBABWE:**

G Flower c Rhodes b Udal	19
A Campbell c Fairbrother b DeFreitas	3
M Dekker b Benjamin	5
A Flower c Rhodes b Gough	52
C Whittall c Rhodes b DeFreitas	53
I Butchart run out	2
G Martin st Rhodes b Hick	1
P Strang b Gough	16
D Brain c Hick b Udal	2
H Streak not out	9
S Peall run out	3
Extras (lb-7, w-2)	9
Total (48.1 overs)	174

Fall: 1-8; 2-16; 3-56; 4-103; 5-122; 6-124; 7-149; 8-156; 9-169.

**Bowling:**

	O	M	R	W
Gough	9.1	3	17	2
DeFreitas	10	0	28	2
Benjamin	10	0	22	1
Udal	8	0	41	2
Hick	7	1	29	1
Gooch	8	0	30	0

Umpires: T McQuillan and C Timmins.

Man-of-the-match: Graham Thorpe (England).

**Result: England won by 26 runs.**

**STANDINGS**

Standings in the World Series Cup one-day competition after today's match here (games, wins, losses, points):

	G	W	L	P
Australia	4	4	0	8
Australia A	4	2	2	4
England	4	2	2	4
Zimbabwe	6	1	5	2

Zimbabwe played their final game of the World Series competition and will now be returning home after developing into a competitive team throughout their seven-week tour of Australia.

Mike Atherton said after the match that England had at last got the "monkey off our backs" with victory over Zimbabwe.

"They beat us in this competition a few weeks back and during the 1992 World Cup, so a couple of scores have been settled," he said.

"We had some heavy legs this morning and it was hard work backing up after the third Test, that's why we brought in a couple of fresh players."

"I wasn't happy with our batting, but we bowled and fielded well and we were particularly mobile in the field."

"I was confident of victory

champion's return to number three in the world rankings and Becker is grateful to both. "Being a father has done me only good. It takes the pressure off my profession a little bit. My wife and I were very, very lucky with Noah. He's perfect little boy and we have a great time."

As he re-adjusts his sleep patterns, it is ironic that Becker now finds himself with a coach fond of urging him to get out of bed earlier in the mornings.

"At this stage of my career it is probably hard for me to change many things in my game. I basically know how good or bad I am. But in other areas it is important to get a new inspiration and a new outlook and he has brought that back into my game."

"We feed off each other's experience. He has about 30 years of tennis and can teach me one or two things I didn't know before. Our personalities get along very well. He is coming down to Melbourne next week."

Becker has shed several coaches and become embroiled in numerous disputes over the years but his re-emergence in 1994 was unmistakable.

He won four tournament titles to take his career tally to 42, made the semifinals at Wimbledon and also reached the final of the ATP World Championship, going down to world number one Pete Sampras.

His sights now are clearly set on regaining the top spot he last held in 1991, although he rates Andre Agassi as another serious contender.

"Andre and myself played good for six to seven months but in order to challenge people we have to do what we did in the second half of 1994 for the whole year. The key is to play consistent and good

fitness is also bound to play a major part and could be Becker's trump card.

His sizeable entourage in Australia includes a fitness trainer in the form of ex high jumper Carlo Thraenhardt who has helped ensure the 1991 champion will return to Melbourne in far better shape than in 1992 and 1993.

"The amount of time I have to spend working on my profession is almost double what it used to be," admitted Becker, absent last year attending Noah's birth.

"It seems 20-25 years ago that I first won Wimbledon. I do far more training than I ever did then... I have to work more to keep up with the teenagers."

When it comes to power tennis, however, Becker still has few peers and remains a fair bet to add to his five Grand Slam titles, assuming off-court factors do not intervene.

One might be his well-publicised displeasure with proposals to cut the time between points at major tournaments from 25 to 20 seconds, which will inevitably make him a marked man at the Australian Open.

If officials prove over-zealous with their stopwatches, the tectonic explosion is certain to be spectacular and, unless controlled, very costly.

Another less immediate but also time-related, Becker admitted again this week he has "given thought to life after tennis" and concedes that few modern players last beyond 30.

For the moment, though, the spirit remains willing.

"Honestly, I'm not bored with playing tennis. Like any profession you have your bad days but in general I have a great time."

"I like what I do. If I didn't, I wouldn't do it."

for the third wicket of 80 balls before Atherton was leg before to Gary Martin for 26 from 64 deliveries.

England lost the wickets of Fairbrother for seven, adjudged run out by a video replay and fellow Lancastrian John Crawley for 14, before Thorpe and wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes put on 57 runs for the sixth wicket.

Rhodes became another dismissal by the third umpire in the grandstand when he lost a stumping appeal by Andy Flower off Mark Dekker for 20 off 28 balls.

Gough only lasted six balls for four before Thorpe was caught by Brain off young leg-spinner Paul Strang.

Phil DeFreitas and Shaun Udal tried to get England beyond 200 in the final overs but tight bowling restricted England to four an over by the end of their 50 overs.

DeFreitas was not out 12 and Udal was unbeaten on 11.

Dekker finished the best of the eight Zimbabwe bowlers with 2-30 off seven overs, while Brain, Streak, Martin, Strang and Grant Flower all took a wicket each.

after we got Andy Flower out," Flower said he thought Zimbabwe had a good chance of overhauling England's 200 score, but things went wrong after their batsmen were contained to under two an over in the first 10 overs.

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# Natal maul Pakistan

**DURBAN, Jan 7:** Pakistan suffered the embarrassment of a second successive defeat by a provincial side when they were thrashed by 232 runs by Natal on Saturday, reports Reuter.

They lost almost as heavily to Western Province last week.

Pakistan, who began the final day on 81 for three, never threatened to reach their daunting 492 run victory target.

The only spirited resistance came from Inzamamul Haq and Ijaz Ahmed.

Inzamam hit one six and 11 fours, three of them from successive Neil Johnson deliveries, on his way to 77 from 112 balls in 179 minutes before the holed out to Dale Benkenstein at mid-ons giving off-spinner Derek Crookes the third of his four wickets.

Ijaz batted at number nine because of a bruised finger but made light of the injury as he blasted his way to 53 from 45 balls. He hit two sixes and seven fours.

Pakistan will be keen to get him fit for the first match of the Mandela Trophy final against South Africa on Tuesday.

**Akram arrives in Durban**

**DURBAN, Jan 7:** Pakistani bowler Wasim Akram arrived in South Africa on Friday to join his teammates after recovering from a sinus operation, reports Reuter.

The left-arm seamer will be hoping to feature in the finals of the Mandela Trophy one-day tournament against South Africa, which begin in Cape Town on Tuesday, as well as the one-off Test starting on January 19.

"I have been here before and I enjoyed myself enormously, so it's a bit like coming home," Wasim told reporters in Durban, where Pakistan are currently playing against Natal.

Wasim, who missed the early part of the tour after undergoing the operation in London, will stay with the team through the Zimbabwe tour at the end of January.

"It was a minor operation but it was necessary because I couldn't breathe properly. I was breathing through my mouth because of the sinus blockage and I started picking up little germs and things," he said.

"I've been practising for the last four or five days but haven't had match practice so I'm feeling a bit stiff."

Wasim missed Pakistan's final Test against Australia in November and his last outing was the final of the triangular one-day tournament, also against Australia, on October 30.

Wasim expressed some doubts about his ability to step straight into the side for the first final on Tuesday: "I'll have to see how my body feels in about three days time."

Coach Intikhab Alam had no such worries: "Providing he is fit, he will play," he said. "We have missed him. He is a crucial bowler for us and it will be good to see him teaming up with Waqar (Younis) again."

**Pierce upsets Sanchez-Vicario**

**HONG KONG, Jan 7:** Mary Pierce of France upset Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 6-4, 6-3, Saturday to win the First Pacific Bank Challenge tennis tournament, reports AP.

Pierce ranked 5th in the world, outplayed the 2nd ranked Sanchez-Vicario beat Pierce in the final of the 1994 French Open.

In another match Japanese Naoko Sawamatsu beat 38 year old Martina Navratilova 6-4, 6-1 to finish third in the three day exhibition tournament.

Navratilova, a nine-time Wimbledon champion, retired from full-time competition last year.

**Courier to play Boetsch in final**

**ADELAIDE, Jan 7:** An improving Jim Courier of the United States advanced to the Australian Hardcourt tennis final with a 6-3, 6-4 win Saturday over Australian Mark Woodforde, reports AP.

In the other semifinal, Arnaud Boetsch of France upset fourth-seeded Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands 7-6 (7-4), 6-2. Courier will be looking to win his first ATP tour title since August 1993 in Sunday's final against Boetsch.

The third-seeded Courier had a 1-3 record against Adelaide-born Woodforde before Saturday, with Woodforde winning their last meeting at the Paris Indoor in straight sets.

It was a different Courier in the semifinal, however, as the American limited Woodforde's opportunities at the net.

"My game seems to be getting better and better," said the former World No. 1. "But it was a difficult match. He didn't give me much to hit, but I selected my shots wisely."



German pair Boris Becker and Anke Huber, winners of the Hopman Cup tennis tournament, poses with the trophy in Perth yesterday. The German pair defeated Natalia Medvedeva and Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine in the mixed doubles 3-0. — AFP photo

# Germany's unique double

**PERTH, Jan 7:** Boris Becker captured the hearts of a capacity crowd of more than 8000 as he powered Germany to the Hopman Cup for a record second time here Saturday, reports AFP.

The world number three earned overwhelming affection with his good sportsmanship during and after the match and a quarter-hour men's singles battle with Ukraine's super-sprinter in the making Andrei Medvedev in the tournament final.

Becker beat Medvedev 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 6-3 after Anke Huber had won the women's singles, beating Medvedev's sister, Natalia Medvedeva, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

This gave the German pair an unassailable two-nil lead.

At a crucial stage in the decisive third set in the final, Becker, a three-times Wimbledon champion, agreed to concede a vital point and replay it.

His gesture of sportsmanship during the eighth game came after Medvedev had pleaded with umpire Wayne McKewan to overrule the electronic line system, which appeared to have failed to indicate the ball was out.

Becker lost the replayed point.



French Mary Pierce poses with the trophy after winning an exhibition tennis tournament in Hong Kong yesterday. Pierce defeated Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 6-4, 6-3. — AFP photo

# Holyfield, the wish-fulfiller

**HOUSTON, Texas, Jan 7:** Former World heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield fulfilled the dying wish of a 12-year-old boy with a visit here just hours before the child died of an incurable blood ailment, reports AFP.

"I'm so thankful he got a chance to see me because that's what he said his wish was," Holyfield said. "All this little boy wanted was to see me."

Tabarric Gentry died Monday, just hours after a hospital visit from his sports idol.

"People has been telling me this for a long time," Holyfield said. "Because of my busy schedule, I didn't get to come to Houston before."

Gentry had been rushed to Anderson Hospital on Sunday with a condition that keeps his body from making red or white blood cells. Workers at the Make a Wish Foundation contacted Holyfield at his Houston home to arrange the visit.

"For all his might, Holyfield felt helpless as he saw the sickly youth."

It's almost like you don't know what to say or do. It was sad," Holyfield said. "Something there was bothering me. I was thinking, what can you actually say to someone who the doctors were expecting to pass?"

Holyfield turned to faith for an answer.

"I wrote that you can do all things through Christ, who strengthens you," Holyfield said. "By him hearing that, I was hoping it would give him the strength. In another sense, I could see he was suffering. And I know God doesn't mean for us to suffer."

Gentry will be buried today.

Holyfield lost his world titles last year and was later found to have a heart ailment. After surgery to correct the defect, Holyfield has been pronounced fit to fight, even though he faces a crowded path of heavyweight title contenders in his quest to regain the crown.

At the post final news conference, he expressed some frank views about the electronic system, used in this event for the second time, but not yet employed at any other international tournament.

"I dislike it very much," he said. "Sometimes the ball was so far out...and it didn't register."

"A human eye would not have made such mistakes."

"We should go back to the linesmen and women, as we have had for 100 years."

Becker and Huber equalled the achievement of Michael Stich and Steffi Graf, who won the Cup for Germany two years ago when they beat Spain's Emilio and Arantxa Sanchez in the final. No other country has won it twice.

The German pair collected 200,000 Australian dollars (154,000 US dollars), while the Ukraine players received 100,000 Australian dollars (77,000 US dollars).

Medvedeva provided courage, but Huber had the slightest edge in skills in an enthralling women's singles.

Huber won the three-sets thriller in almost two hours.

After the German had taken the blistering opening set in 45 minutes, Medvedeva showed the tenacity which has become the hallmark of her game.

After dropping service in the opening game and then trailing 0-2, Medvedeva won five games in a row to take the set with relative comfort.

Huber's ice-cool temperament threatened to crack in a marvelously close deciding set.

But she found reserves of tenacity to overcome a gallant opponent by a whisker.

Becker waltzed to victory in only 28 minutes in his opening set, when his precision returns frequently caught his opponent flat-footed.

The German served five successive aces in the eighth game of the second set, but this was still not enough to prevent the never say die Medvedev from taking the tie-breaker.

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Navratilova, a nine-time Wimbledon champion, retired from full-time competition last year.

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- It's all in vein
- Snapshot, for short
- Erstwhile ovum
- Maris of TV's "Nurses"
- Actress Garr
- Drizzle
- Cauldron
- Risked nasal growth?
- Stick
- Mountain-er's toothhold
- Reason for "two"
- John Lennon hit
- Whammy
- Word before line or tack
- Verve
- Not "agin"
- Lucie's dad
- Letter opener
- Kramden's "office"
- Demand
- Reason

**DOWN**

- Blue, in Barcelona
- Stickler for details
- Singer Vikki
- Cry of discovery
- Finished
- Eye layer
- Neither partner
- Long-popular crooner
- Track transactions
- "Ske-daddle"
- Difficulty
- Buddhist
- monk
- "Metamorphoses"
- Platter
- Pop singer Gloria
- One type of tiger
- "not choose to run"
- He works at home
- Rand's shrugger
- Under a load
- Raw rock
- Top
- Nancy's man
- Tyrannosaur
- designation
- "Foolish Things"
- Seine feeder
- "Dead Poets Society" director
- It's left, on maps
- Medley
- Thorn in Dennis the Menace's side
- Mile divided by 8
- Ship-repair site
- AC meas.
- Praiseful piece
- Stone and Pound
- Left at sea?
- Bard's river
- Mega-maniacal captain
- Jog
- News-room newcomer
- "Hail"
- polloi

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

**JAR DSC**  
**WAVE MOTOR**  
**BEDIM ENAMEL**  
**ONEDODZENROSES**  
**ADD DETAY UPI**  
**WEDS AMEX**  
**BAIRS FEWER**  
**FROG CALL**  
**EER STILL DNA**  
**EATTHEDAISIES**  
**MARINE SHACK**  
**BENOR OINK**  
**YEN NNE**

**CRYPTOQUIP**

ULQETFH P NNTFUGPUG  
 PMVZGGLM GT IZH  
 MTNGTQ: "Z'V ILPQZUJ  
 HGQPUIJL ZUETZNLH"

Yesterday's Cryptquip: GARDENER TO PERKY GIRLFRIEND: "I FIND THAT I WORSHIP THE GROUNDS YOU WALK ON."

Today's Cryptquip clue: N equals C

The Cryptquip 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.

for "three"