

NZ Select XI in command

WANGANUI, New Zealand. Feb 27: Darrin Murray missed out on a double century but the New Zealand Select XI moved into a strong position by stumps Monday...

The Select XI made 327 — the backbone of which was a magnificent 182 by Test opener Murray — and then reduced the tourists to 170 for six by stumps.

Murray resumed on 150 and fell 18 short of his first double century when he was bowled by a delivery from Ravindra Pushpakumara which kept low, caught the inside edge of his bat and thundered into the stumps.

Murray's vigil lasted 471 minutes, during which he faced 351 balls, 24 of which he deposited to the boundary.

His marathon innings lifted the Select XI from a dismal 76 for five just after lunch on Sunday to a credible total.

Left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas trapped last batsman Heath Davis leg before wicket for four to haul a deserved five-wicket haul and wrapped up the innings after the Select XI had resumed at 268 for seven.

Vaas was the best of the tourists bowlers, sending down 34.1 overs to claim 5-87. The Sri Lankan batsmen never came to grips with a dogged New Zealand attack.

Opener Dilip Samarawera departed first for nine when he was trapped leg before wicket by medium-pace Warren Wisneski.

He was joined in the pavilion by Asanka Gurusinha, who compiled 37 before offering a catch to Roger Twose at first slip off the medium pace of part-time bowler Stephen Mather.

Sanjeeva Ratununga fell victim to the first over from left-arm spinner Matthew Hart, dismissed for 10 when an attempted flick off his hips found the hands of Chris Harris.

Aravinda da Silva, who been aggressive throughout, then fell to Heath Davis for 21 and Hashan Tillekaratne contributed only two before becoming Davis' second victim.

Sanath Jayasuriya steadied the ship with an unbeaten 51. Chamara Dunasinghe contributed 20 before becoming Wisneski's second victim and Vaas had not scored by stumps.

Scores: New Zealand Select XI 327 (Darrin Murray 182; Chaminda Vaas 5-87); Sri Lanka 170-6 (Sanath Jayasuriya 51 not out).

Kastenmaier's treble powers Borussia

BONN, Feb 27: Borussia Moenchengladbach midfielder Thomas Kastenmaier scored a hat-trick to propel his side to a 4-2 away win over Karlsruhe on Sunday and push them up to fifth place in the German Bundesliga, reports Reuter.

Karlsruhe, who had been unbeaten at home for 15 months, took a seventh minute lead through Russia's Sergei Kiryakov.

They still looked in charge after Kastenmaier and Manfred Bender scored a penalty for each side.



Dutchman Richard Krajicek makes a backhand return to Michael Stich during the final of the ATP tournament in Stuttgart on Feb 26. Krajicek won 7-6, 6-3, 6-7, 1-6, 6-3. — AFP photo

Krajicek surprises Stich

STUTTGART, Feb 27: Richard Krajicek squandered a two-set lead and three match points before recovering to upset Michael Stich in five sets and win the Eurocard Open Sunday, reports AP.

The Dutchman won 7-6, (7-4), 6-3, 6-7 (6-8), 1-6, 6-3, in three hours.

Krajicek thus avenged a bitter five-set loss to Stich in the final of the same event in 1993, when an umpire's error delivered the victory to Stich.

This time, there was no controversy, only inconsistent play by both men.

The victory earned unseeded Krajicek dls 395,000, while Stich, the fifth seed, had to settle for dls 208,000. The dls 2.25-million event is one of the most lucrative on the IBM/ATP Tour.

With his eighth career victory, Krajicek also collected 496 points and he will move five spots higher to No 11 in the world when the new computer rankings come out Monday.

Krajicek broke for a 2-1 lead to set the early pace. Although the Dutchman looked in control, he allowed Stich to break back to level 4-4.

But Stich was having problems getting his powerful first serve in and in the tiebreak served two straight double-faults in a row to help Krajicek win five points in a row and take the set.

Krajicek broke early again in the second set to take a 2-0 lead and he held to go two sets up.

There were no breaks in the third set and Krajicek held three match points in the tiebreak. Stich saved them with two tremendous returns and an ace and went on to hold a set point. He won it when Krajicek double-faulted.

This completely unsettled Krajicek, who had dominated the match until then, and the Dutchman failed to hold his serve in the fourth set.

There was a brief moment of hope for Krajicek when he broke Stich in the fourth game, but he then dropped his

own serve at love and the German sailed through the set to level the score.

Stich, who trounced top-seeded Boris Becker 6-0, 6-3 in Saturday's semifinals, was unable to hold his momentum.

The match was decided in the seventh game of the final set. Stich saved three break points and wasted three game points before finally surrendering his serve.

Krajicek, up one break, served to love in the next game and broke the German again, converting his fourth match point with a powerful forehand return down the line.

In the 1993 final, Stich won 7-5 in the fifth set, after the umpire had overruled a linesman and called Krajicek's serve out, on match point. The call so upset the Dutchman that he dropped his serve and lost the match.

Stich will get his opportunity for revenge when the Netherlands and Germany meet in the second round of the Davis Cup next month in Utrecht, Netherlands.

Gunnell's war against drugs

LONDON, Feb 27: Sally Gunnell launched a campaign today aimed at steering Britain's athletes clear of some of the drug-taking controversies which scarred the sport last year, reports Reuter.

Gunnell, the British women's team captain, has written to nearly 500 internationals urging them to ensure that over-the-counter products they take do not contain banned substances.

And she will continue her initiative by working with the British Athletic Federation to make them fully aware of the correct procedures when they are tested.

Sprinter Solomon Wariso and javelin thrower Colin Mackenzie were both banned for three months in 1994 after taking what they thought were harmless products.

Wariso's pick-me-up tablets, which put him out of the European Championships in Helsinki, and Mackenzie's painkillers both contained prohibited stimulants.

Gunnell says: "If you don't check remedy medicines at all times and they show up on any testing, the results not only reflect on you, but on our sport."

Donald, Jack fired up

NELSON, New Zealand, Feb 27: Fast bowlers Allan Donald and Steven Jack took four wickets apiece Monday as South Africa took a first innings lead on the opening day of their three-day cricket match against a New Zealand Academy XI at Trafalgar Park, reports AP.

South Africa dismissed the Academy XI for 120 and then moved to 153 for seven by stumps — a lead of 33.

Jack took two wickets in his third over of the morning and the Academy team struggled to 78 for six by lunch with only opener Michael Pariana making progress.

Pariana made 35 before being run out.

A flurry of runs after lunch from allrounder Nathan Astle boosted the total, but the last four wickets fell in the space of 26 balls.

Donald had impressive figures of 4-39, while Jack finished with 4-47.

Only three batsmen reached double figures, Astle top-scoring with his rapid 49 from 52 balls, including eight boundaries.

The South Africans began poorly in reply before Darryl Cullinan steadied the innings with a half century.

Opener Andrew Hudson was bowled by the first ball of the tourists' innings and captain Hansie Cronje (6) soon followed.

Opener Rudi Steyn led a charmed life before being caught behind for 32 shortly after tea.

Collimore the culprit

LONDON, Feb 27: Nottingham Forest striker Stan Collimore, cleared of two assault charges in court last week, was guilty of a dreadful miss that allowed relegation-threatened Queens Park Rangers to draw 1-1 at home on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Simon Barker nodded in the equaliser for Rangers in the 87th minute to take his team one precious point further away from the relegation trap-door of the English Premier league.

For Evert, life begins at 40

WESLEY CHAPEL, Florida, Feb 27 (AP): So much had happened since she retired in 1989 that Chris Evert hardly knew where to begin.

She's a mother of two now, and enjoying the challenge of raising a family. She's also 40 years old and, in some ways, just beginning to live her life.

The situation made one of the greatest tennis players of all time smile.

Instead of rising at 10 am to prepare for another match, she's up by 7 am to start her day as a "full-time mom."

There's less stress and less travel, she said, and more time to do what her successful career as an athlete would never allow.

"The pressures are different, much more positive. ... I guess I have a life now," she said, breaking into laughter. "I don't miss the single-mindedness of the tour. You're so immersed in the competition and trying to be No. 1 that you sort of forget other things in life."

Her dedication to tennis produced 18 Grand Slam titles in 17 years. However, leaving the game has given her a deeper appreciation for a lot of things she took for granted during her career.

Basic things like the weather and the effect it can have on a person's outlook on a particular day. Many of the tournaments she played were indoors, so it never meant

much to her to hear people talk about what a lovely or lousy day it was outside.

"Now I wake up, and it's a beautiful day, and I enjoy my first cup of coffee. I enjoy my kids and I enjoy the fact that I'm not a winner or loser every

day," she said. "That really gets to you after a while. You see yourself as a winner or loser, and that's not the way it really should be."

Evert spends as much time as she can with her husband, former Olympic skier Andy Mill, and young sons Alex and Nicholas. She has a housekeeper at home in Boca Raton, but the responsibility for tak-

ing care of the children is one she cherishes.

"I waited this long to have kids. I'm not going to throw them off on somebody else to take care of," said Evert, who was in Wesley Chapel last week to promote the upcoming six-city Virginia Slims Legends Tour.

"I take them to Discovery Zone, McDonald's the park — everywhere," she said, explaining that she tries to keep life as normal as possible for the youngsters.

"People recognize me, but they're very respectful. I'm not Michael Jackson. I don't have screaming fans. ... I retired 5-1-2 years ago, so I don't get that adulation every day that I got before. ... Sometimes I forget that maybe I'm a well-known person. I feel like I'm just another mom with a child who has a runny nose. I don't want my kids to feel that specialness or isolation. I just want them to grow up in a normal environment."

Evert plays tennis regularly but hasn't competed in a tournament since the 1989 US Open. That will change in April when she, Martina Navratilova, Billie Jean King, Tracy Austin, and others begin the Legends tour.

The tour, featuring doubles matches and an abbreviated singles format between Evert and Navratilova, will debut here April 8-9 at Saddlebrook Resort.

Ruelas next De La Hoya's list

LAS VEGAS, Feb 27: Oscar De La Hoya was barely finished brawling with John Molina when his mind turned to Rafael Ruelas, reports AP.

"That fight will be the fight of the year," De La Hoya said of his scheduled May 6 date with the IBF lightweight champion. "We're going to go at it."

De La Hoya emerged a frustrated winner Saturday night against Molina, keeping the WBO version of the 135-pound

(61 kg) title with a unanimous decision in a fight marred by clinching and holding.

Ruelas was at ringside to size up his fellow Los Angeles-area opponent for their upcoming fight. He was not terribly impressed.

"It confirms what I've been saying," Ruelas said. "He lacks experience and doesn't take the initiative. He lets guys fight their fight against him."

Molina did just that, turning the WBO lightweight title bout into a bout that at times resembled a brawl, at others a

wrestling match.

But it was De La Hoya who kept his perfect pro record intact with 17 wins going into the planned fight against Ruelas.

"It was a good night a good outcome," De La Hoya said. "I'm a fighter who has only had 17 fights. I'm a little puppy in this sports. And I'm up against the big dogs."

De La Hoya earned dls 1.25 million for his biggest fight to date, against a Puerto Rican challenger who hadn't lost in 15 fights and had made seven successful defences of his IBF junior lightweight title.

He'll earn much more against Ruelas in a clash of Los Angeles-area champions that most likely is headed to Las Vegas.

De La Hoya tried to put a positive spin on his win over Molina, who used every tactic in the book, but didn't have enough power to dominate the fight.

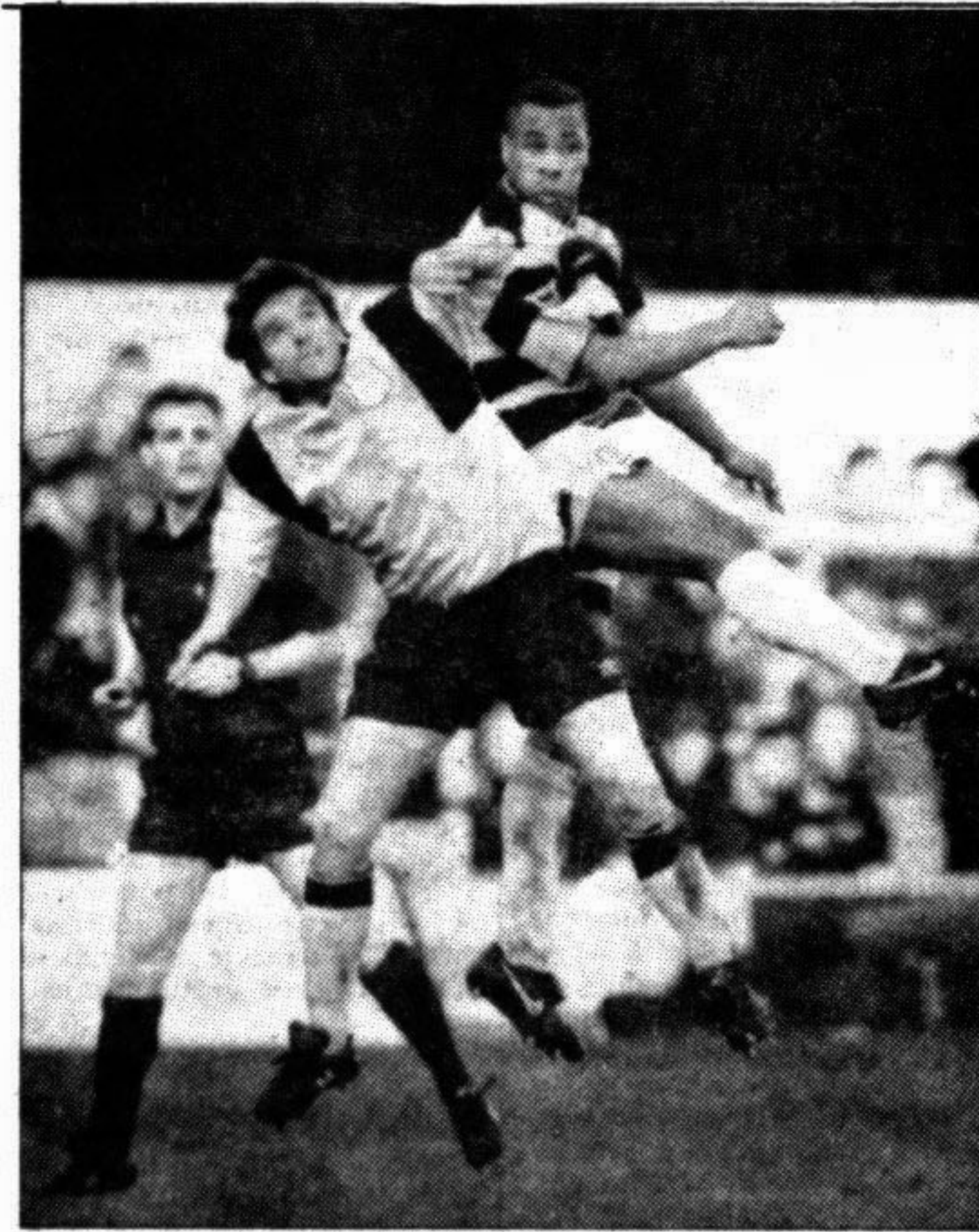
De La Hoya managed to knock Molina down in the first round, but Molina's all-out attack style frustrated him in the middle rounds. De La Hoya ended up winning by five points on two rightside cards and six on another.

De La Hoya's 1992 Olympic teammate, Moïtel Griffin, pulled off the upset of the evening, handing James Toney his second straight loss.

Griffin, now 15-0, never gave Toney punching room in scoring a unanimous decision in Toney's debut as a light heavyweight.

Griffin, a 4-1 underdog, won the fight the only way he could, pressuring Toney inside and not allowing the powerful former champion enough punching room to hurt him.

"Toney needs punching room and I tried to take that punching room away from him," the 24-year-old Griffin said.



Nottingham Forest's David Phillips (L) and QPR's Les Ferdinand are locked in an aerial tussle during their English Premier league match at Loftus Road in London on Feb 26. The encounter ended 1-1. — AFP photo

Enqvist conquers Chang

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 27: Thomas Enqvist discovered one of the more bizarre ways to beat one of the world's best players.

Drop the first set in six straight games, then win the next two sets while shutting out the opposition in the last.

"I'll have to remember his strategy the next time I play him," Michael Chang, the defending champion, said Sunday after losing 0-6, 7-5, 6-0 in the finals of the US indoor tournament, reports AP.

Chang, the third seed and No. 6 player in the world, won the first six games, then lost five in a row. He won four straight before losing the final seven to the 20-year-old Swede.

Enqvist earned his fourth tournament title and dls 110,000. He knocked off No. 2 Andre Agassi in a three-set semifinal to win his first career match against a top 10 player. He celebrated Agassi's first loss of 1995 by hitting a ball into the rafters.

When his cross-court forehand skipped past Chang at match point Sunday, Enqvist raised his arms in triumph. For the first time all week — a week in which he blasted 64 aces — a smile appeared on his stoic face.

"I didn't expect to win the tournament," Enqvist said.

Especially after Chang won the opening set in 23 minutes. Until Enqvist held to open the second set, Chang had taken 23 of 26 games since trailing 5-3 in the second set against

Jonathan Stark in the quarter-finals. The game proved pivotal.

"I felt sorry for the crowd after the first set. I wanted to do better in the second," Enqvist said. "I started to hit the ball further and push him back. I played unbelievable. I think."

Chang had three break points. Enqvist responded with three straight aces to hold serve 1-0. He then broke Chang twice and took a 5-0 lead. But Chang responded with two breaks of his own only to drop serve in the 12th game and lose the set.

"I should have put a lot more pressure on him," Chang said. "I think it was a combination of Thomas raising his level of play and me losing that little bit of concentration" after being up 6-0.

The quietly confident Enqvist has now won two tournaments this year and 16 of 18 matches. His only losses are to top-ranked Pete Sampras at Memphis, Tenn., and to Jim Courier at the Australian Hardcourts. Enqvist triumphed at the New Zealand Open last month.

He is coming off a year in which he underwent surgery on both knees and missed 18 weeks on the tour. His rise comes at a down time for Swedish tennis. For the first time since October 1982, no Swede is in the top 10.

Yellow fever keeps SA runners off Kenya

NAIROBI, Feb 27: Fifteen South African runners have cancelled plans to train in Kenya before next month's World Cross Country Championships in England because of the risk of yellow fever, reports Reuter.

Deena Naidoo, a member of the cross-country committee of Athletics South Africa (ASA), said: "Our insurers' medical committees have not sanctioned the proposal because of the risk of yellow fever."

The South Africans had been expected to start high-altitude training in Kenya before the championships in Durham in two weeks time.

Kenyan officials expressed surprise at the decision saying that although the whole of tropical Africa is regarded as a yellow fever zone, no outbreaks have been reported in Kenya for many years.

Kenya has also been declared an unsuitable venue for major international athletics meetings.

Dhaka City Corporation Tender Notice. Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 from bonafide enlisted contractors of Dhaka City Corporation for the undermentioned works and will be received by the all Zone Offices of Dhaka City Corporation up to 12.00 hrs. on 07-3-1995 and will be opened by the respective officer on the same day at 12.30 hrs. in presence of the tenderers or their representatives who may choose to attend. Earnest money shown against works shall have to be furnished along with tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any schedule Bank in favour of the Mayor, Dhaka City Corporation.

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