

Aussies restore parity

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 12: A West Indies middle order collapse handed Australia victory by 26 runs in the high-scoring second one-day international at Queen's park Oval on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Needing 261, West Indies were cruising at 175 for three in the 35th over but then lost four wickets for 16 runs and were eventually dismissed for 234.

then Hooper (55 off 58) embarrassed the Australian attack. But Warne had the last laugh by having Hooper caught at mid-wicket by Greg Blewett, the dismissal starting a collapse that sent West Indies from 175 for three to 191 for seven.

A rearguard action from Keith Arthurton (35) and Vasbert Drakes (16) gave the Australians a scare but McDermott cleaned up the tail.

Pacemen Paul Reiffel, who took three for 32 from his 10 overs, and Craig McDermott, with three for 37 in 6.5, cleaned up the middle and lower orders, the last seven wickets tumbling for 59.

Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy was named man-of-the-match after flogging 51 runs from 45 balls as the touring team rushed to 260 for eight off their 50 overs.



IAN HEALY... m-o-m

Healy said the match was a 'mirror image' of the first game, won by the West Indies in Bridgetown on Wednesday by six runs.

"In one of these games the team batting second is going to chase a big score and get it," Healy said.

West Indies hoped to have captain Richie Richardson back for today's third match of the series.

Richardson, who was nurs-

ing a shoulder injury, was badly missed by the Caribbean side on Saturday.

Australian were hoping McDermott would make a quick recovery from a shoulder injury that hampered his performance at times, but the fast bowler was in considerable discomfort after the match and could be sidelined.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second limited overs international between West Indies and Australia at Queen's Park Oval on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA				
M Slater c and b Hooper	55			
M Taylor c Walsh b Ambrose	16			
M Waugh b Benjamin	0			
D Boon c Benjamin b Simmons	48			
S Waugh b Walsh	58			
G Blewett run out	4			
I Healy run out	51			
P Reiffel b Benjamin	14			
S. Warne not out	4			
Australia (lb-3, w-6, nb-1)	10			
Total: (6 wickets-50 overs)	260			
Fall of wickets: 1-37; 2-39; 3-93; 4-111; 5-162; 6-207; 7-252; 8-160 Did not bat: C. McDermott, G. McGrath				
WEST INDIES				
P Simmons b McGrath	34			
S Williams lbw Reiffel	0			
B Lara c Healy b Blewett	62			
C Hooper c Blewett b Warne	55			
J. Adams run out	15			
K. Arthurton c Boon b McDermott	35			
M. Murray lbw Reiffel	0			
W. Benjamin b Reiffel	3			
V. Drakes c Reiffel b McDermott	16			
C. Ambrose b McDermott	1			
C. Walsh not out	0			
Extras: (lb-8, w-4, nb-1)	13			
Total: (47.5 overs)	234			
Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-79; 3-121; 4-175; 5-182; 6-185; 7-191; 8-232; 9-234				
Bowling				
McDermott	6.5	0	37	3
Reiffel	10	2	32	3
McGrath	9	1	36	1
Warne	10	0	63	1
Blewett	8	0	43	1
S. Waugh	4	0	15	0

Result: Australia won by 26 runs

Man-of-the-match: Ian Healy.

Series 1-1

W Australia still in race

SYDNEY, Mar 12: Western Australia maintained their challenge for the Sheffield Shield on Sunday with a four-wicket win over champions new South Wales, reports Reuter.

Middle-order batsman Brad Hogg and all-rounder Brendon Julian secured victory on the fourth and final day at the Sydney Cricket Ground with an unbeaten 65-run partnership for the seventh wicket.

But while Western Australia improved their prospects of reaching this month's Shield final, Victoria suffered a setback in their pursuit of leaders Queensland and South Australia, losing by 57 runs to Tasmania.

Western Australia's victory lifted them to third place in the standings on 27.7 points, ahead of Victoria on 27.1 points.

Queensland and South Australia share top place on 32 points.

Hogg remained unbeaten on 50 not out, with Julian on 32 not out as Western Australia reached 204 for six in their second innings.

Former Australia Test all-rounder Tom Moody also helped pave the way for victory by capturing four for 42 as New South Wales were bowled out of just 152 in their second innings.

In Hobart, Victoria fell short of their victory target of 362 off a minimum of 82 overs despite a contribution of 116 from opener Rohan Larkin.

After declaring their second innings on 413 for four, Tasmania sealed victory by dismissing Victoria for 304.

Tasmania and New South Wales are locked in last place on the table with 16 points.

In the final round matches this week, Victoria host Western Australia, Tasmania entertain Queensland and South Australia travel to New South Wales.

The Five-day Shield final, starting on March 24, will then be contested by the top two sides in the table.

Famous four in final four

INDIAN WELLS, California, Mar 12: A final four worthy of a Grand Slam event emerged on Saturday as Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg advanced to the semifinals of the 1.8 million dollars Newsweek Champions Cup, reports Reuter.

Top seed and defending champion Sampras and second-seeded Agassi, who are battling for the world number one ranking, posted quick, straight-set victories.

Sampras outplayed eighth-seeded, fellow-American Todd Martin 6-3, 6-4 in 78 minutes in his quarter-final, while Agassi was four minutes faster in scoring a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Wayne Ferreira of South Africa.

The third-seeded Becker and Edberg, seeded 11th, both rallied to victory after losing the first set.

Becker, buoyed by 10 aces, overcame tenacious baseliner Magnus Larsson of Sweden, the 12th seed, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Edberg also relied on his powerful first serve to rally past 14th seed Thomas Muster of Austria 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 in a match interrupted three times by rain for a total of 30 minutes.

In today's semifinals, Sampras faces Edberg, and Becker plays Agassi. The final is scheduled for Monday evening, a first for an ATP tour event.

Mixed fortune for US

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina, Mar 12: The first surprise in the Pan American Games was followed quickly Saturday by the first gold medal, with the United States heavily involved in both.

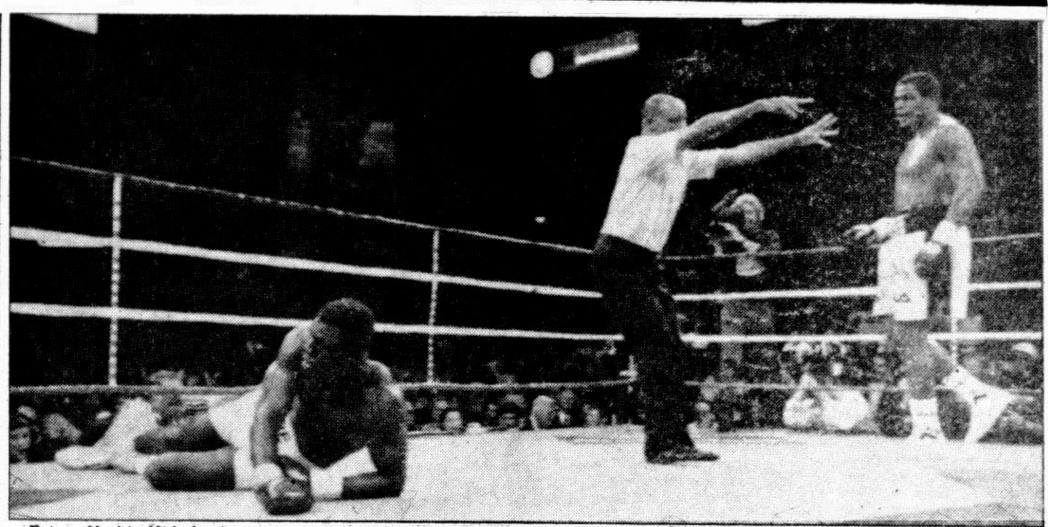
Argentina, where baseball is almost a non-existent sport and which lost every game in its only other Pan Am baseball appearance in 1951, beat the United States 6-4.

The United States is being represented by the St. John's university baseball team of New York City.

"For us, this is a first. It was a big objective in the Pan American Games," said manager Carlos Siffredi, who has spent five years putting the team together and taking it around the globe to train. "It's been a long process and now there's a lot of pride. It definitely helped a lot to play at home."

Moments after that, the US men's gymnastics team was victorious, collecting the first gold of the games, which officially began with the evening's opening ceremonies at Municipal Sports Park. The Americans edged Cuba, the defending champion, 551.150-550.900. Canada won the bronze.

In the other baseball game, it was Puerto Rico 10, Guatemala 3.



Briton Herbie Hide begins to get up from the canvas as referee Richard Steel sends American Riddick Bowe to a neutral corner in the third round of their WBO heavyweight bout in Las Vegas on March 11. Hide went down seven times in six rounds before Bowe eventually stopped him. — AFP/UNB photo

Bowe captures WBO crown

LAS VEGAS, Mar 12: Riddick Bowe watched Herbie Hide get up from six knockdowns. After the seventh knockdown kept him down, Bowe saluted Hide's courage.

"Boy, you're all right," Bowe said as he embraced Hide in the center of the ring after the fight ended at 2:25 of the sixth round.

Hide went down for the last time from a left-right to the body and left-right to the head. He made it to one knee as referee Richard Steele counted him out, giving the WBO championship to Bowe, reports AP.

"Herbie Hide was able to withstand a lot of punishment," the 6-foot-5, 241-pound (1.96 metre, 109 kg) Bowe said in a championship understatement. The 6-2, 214-pound (1.88 meter, 96 kg) Hide suffered the first defeat of his career.

"I must admit, tonight was not one of my best performances," Bowe said.

Still, it gave him a title and kept him in a heavyweight sweepstakes that is certain to become more lucrative than ever after Mike Tyson is released from prison March 25.

"Hide was much faster than I thought, but the pressure took its toll," Bowe said.

A CompuBox analysis of the fight at the MGM Garden showed Bowe landed only 79 of 159 punches thrown. Hide landed 120 of 225.

Computers, however, don't show differences in power. And in this fight, that difference was vast.

At the end of five rounds, judges Jerry Roth and Chuck Giampa each had Bowe leading 48-42 while Bill Graham had Bowe ahead 48-45.

The AP card favoured Bowe 48-43.

Hide, a 23-year-old native of Nigeria living in England, controlled the first two rounds with his speed and a good jab and hooks to the head, but then was dropped twice each in the third and fourth rounds, once in the fifth and two more times in the sixth.

Bowe took his share of punishment in the wild fight, including several times immediately after he had knocked Hide to the canvas.

Beginning in the third round, an estimated crowd of 5,000 was in, a continual uproar as the two men battered one another. The biggest punches belonged to Bowe.

Just before the two-minute mark in the third round, Hide appeared to go down from a punch, but Steele ruled that Bowe had pulled him down. Hide, however, appeared to be hurt when he got up.

Bowe swarmed to the attack and knocked Hide down with a series of head shots. The defending champion got up at "eight," but then went down again from a right uppercut. The bell ended the round moments later.

Bowe continued the attack in the fourth round, knocking Hide down with a five-punch combination to the head. Hide went down again after a left-right to the head, but was up at "six."

Hide went down again at 1:08 of the fifth round from a left-right to the head. Once again, he struggled up at "eight." As Bowe moved in, Hide hit him with seven punches that made Bowe hold. Hide then wobbled the challenger with a hard right and held his own for the rest of the round.

But, finally, in the sixth round, Bowe put Hide down to stay.

"He was not quite as sharp as I like to see him," said Bowe's 83-year-old trainer, Eddie Futch. "But he was in there with a very unorthodox guy. If he had been a more orthodox fighter, Riddick would have gotten him out much sooner. This fight will help Riddick a lot."

Bowe's three-inch height (7.6 cm) advantage and 27-pound (12 kg) weight advantage were too much for Hide to overcome. The victory gave the former undisputed champion a 36-1 record with 30 knockouts. He also has one no-contest.

Bowe, who earned dls 1 million, will next fight unbeaten Jorge Luis Gonzalez, a Cuban living in Los Angeles, on June 7 at the MGM Grand for dls 10 million purse.

Gonzalez, 239 (108 kg), knocked down Brian Scott and stopped him in the second round on an eye cut in a preliminary bout. Gonzalez is 23-0 with 22 KOs.

Hide, 26-1 with 25 knockouts, earned dls 3.2 million. "I'm only 23 years old. I'll be back," he said.

Malaysian Open golf Devers'

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 12: American Clay Devers shot a 3-under-par 69 Sunday for a one-shot victory in the dls 250,000 Benson and Hedges Malaysian Open golf championship, reports AP.

Overnight co-leader Darren Clarke of Ireland shot a 70 and tied for second at 11-under-par 277 with Daniel Chopra of Sweden and American Kevin Wentworth, who both shot 67s Sunday on the 7,210-yard, par-72 Templer Park Country Club course.

Devers, 27, took the lead with a birdie on the 13th hole and widened it to two shots when Clarke bogeyed the 14th. Clarke birdied the 17th but still ended a stroke behind.

Devers, making his debut on the Asian Circuit, attributed his victory in Malaysia to his father, Andrew.

"He taught me how to make a correct swing," said the winner who received dls 41,650. Chopra, Wentworth and Clarke each collected dls 18,640.

"I missed a lot of big putts and that wasn't good," said Clarke. "I was trying to catch up after the 12th hole but couldn't."

Rick Todd of Canada, who shot a course record 64 on Saturday, had a 68 Sunday and finished at 279, three shots off the pace.

Samson floors Pougachev

BANGKOK, Mar 12: Charging relentlessly and unleashing powerful hooks, Thailand's Samson Elite Gym knocked out Maxim Pougachev of Russia in the fourth round Sunday, retaining his World Boxing Federation Junior bantamweight title, reports AP.

Pougachev, the first-ranked contender was impressive in the first round, when it looked as if his rapid delivery could prove decisive in the scheduled 12-rounder.

But the more powerfully built, 23-year-old Thai took firm command in the second round and never let up, sometimes chasing the Russian around the ring to deliver one telling punch after another.

Suffering from a cut above his right eye and weakened by the pounding, Pougachev succumbed to a series of punches ending with a left hook that sent him crashing to the floor midway through the fourth round.

Atletico ambush Barcelona

MADRID, Mar 12: Brazilian defender Ivan Rocha gave struggling Atletico Madrid a sorely needed break Saturday when he scored the two goals to help the side stun Barcelona 2-0, reports AP.

The result left Barcelona (14-4-6, 33 points) in second place four points behind Real Madrid (15-7-2), who had a chance to increase their lead when they faced lowly Racing in Santander on Sunday.

Deportivo La Coruna (12-8-4) had a chance to pass Barcelona and move into second when they played at Zaragoza on Sunday.

In other games Sunday, Valencia face Valladolid; Tenerife host Oviedo; Compostela are

home against Celta; Betis are at Barcelona to play Espanyol; Sporting are home to Logrones; Athletic Bilbao play Albacete and Sevilla take on Real Sociedad.

Atletico's victory improved them to 8-6-11 and 22 points and moved them three points away from the relegation zone.

In deep contrast with previous encounters, Saturday's game got off to an exceedingly drab start and looked as if it would end in a scoreless draw.

With both sides playing scrappily, Barcelona had a slight edge on possession but was unable to move out of the midfield.

Barcelona's Russian striker Igor Korneiev had the best chance to score early, thunde-

ring a shot from the right-hand edge of the box in the 30th minute that goalkeeper Abel Resino managed to finger away.

Atletico's luck began to change when in the 45th minute Rocha blasted a free kick from 22 metres that was blocked by Barcelona keeper Carlos Busquets.

But seconds later, Busquets handed Atletico a penalty when he pulled down Francisco 'Kiko' Narvaez on the edge of the area.

Rocha easily converted to give Atletico the lead... half-time, and five minutes into the second half the Brazilian added another, firing a free kick from 20 meter past an apparently unaware Busquets.

Minister now, king always

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina, Mar 12: Brazilians have a saying that even an old king never loses his majesty. Just ask Pele.

The retired "king" of soccer got a regal reception when he paid a surprise visit Saturday to the compound of the Pan American Games, reports AP.

Athletes, diplomats, chambermaids, security guards and journalists dropped everything and rushed to have their photo taken with the world's greatest soccer star. Pele graciously attended them all.

"I keep thinking that it won't happen, that it's all in the past. But I still get a thrill with the attention," he said.

Pele, 54, retired as a player in 1977, but now he is more active than ever in a new role.

as Brazil's cabinet-level Minister of Sports.

"I lost status," he joked. "I stopped being a king and dropped to minister."

Pele arrived Friday in this seaside resort city, hoping to

Pele plans to step up sports exchanges and cooperation with neighbour — and traditional rival — Argentina, especially in preparation for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

The idea is shared by Argentina President Carlos Menem, a sports enthusiast who put up Pele at his beach house on the outskirts of this city.

And Pele has lots more ideas that promise to shake up Brazilian sports. They range from finding private sponsors for amateur sports to breaking up what he called "dictatorships" in some sports federations, notably judo and basketball.

"I didn't join this team to lose," he said. "I plan to fulfill 100 per cent of what I set out to do."

To help him in that task, Pele said he has enlisted the help of top sports figures, including three-time Formula One racing champion Nelson Piquet and former soccer star Socrates.

What his ministry doesn't have, he said, is money.

"The first thing I learned as minister was: There's no budget yet," he said with a laugh.

Still, Pele expects to accomplish a lot simply with the contacts and prestige he built over the years. And he is plunging ahead with the irresistible impetus he once showed charging the enemy goal.

"Life is beginning now," he said.

see the Brazilian soccer team's opening game against Costa Rica. But he got in late and had to watch Brazil's 2-0 victory on television.

He praised the play of the young squad, a second-string team of players under 20. The 'A' team will play in the World Junior Championships in Nigeria.

"Brazil has lots of quality players, enough to form three or four national teams," he said.



PELE



Spurs forward Juergen Klinsmann is ecstatic after scoring a goal during the FA Cup sixth round encounter against Liverpool at Anfield on March 11. Spurs won 2-1. — AFP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Catcher's stance

6 Drive on

11 Group of worshippers

12 — Vincent Peale

14 "Stand by Me" director

15 Rock band, the — Brothers

16 Make a boo-boo

17 Staid

19 Literary collection

20 Made like

22 Moustache application

23 Use a spatula

24 Dixon's partner

26 Governments in power

28 Kids' card game

30 Blue

31 Wicked woman

35 Dangle a carrot

DOWN

9 Use

10 Singer-actress

11 Elite

13 Tide types

18 Rail

21 Peg

23 Fulgencio's successor

25 Apprehend

27 Roscoe

29 News items

31 Gem

32 Ducks

33 Babbitt's hometown

34 Schiepp

36 Maniac

37 It's enough to shake a stick at

38 Gearshift, for short

41 Strand

44 Major defeat

45 Anger

48 Moreover

50 Barbie's beau

Solution time: 28 mins.

SWASH	MAP	SOV
TITLE	EGO	TRI
ATLAW	DETROIT	
AVENUE	ELLA	
URN	DIS	SPELL
SITS	CAMEL	
APACHE	OCASEY	
HERDS	YEST	
HOMER	REP	ASP
ATOM	DESERT	
PHOENIX	DITTO	
PEN	ACE	ALLAN
YRS	GEL	LEEDS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			13
14						15			
16			17		18			19	
20		21		22				23	
24			25		26			27	
		28		29		30			
31	32	33			34		35	36	37
38			40		41		42		
43							45		46
47		48					49		50
51							52		
53							54		

CRYPTOQUIP

Z R Q K C M A K R G I C M K C P
 Q R P Z R P D R G Q Z K I J K R
 W U K K A U U P W Q C M A
 D A O P P U Q R P K A U K Q Q J

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PLUCKY TAILOR-TURNED-POLICEMAN IS GOOD AT MAKING COLLARS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals L

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.