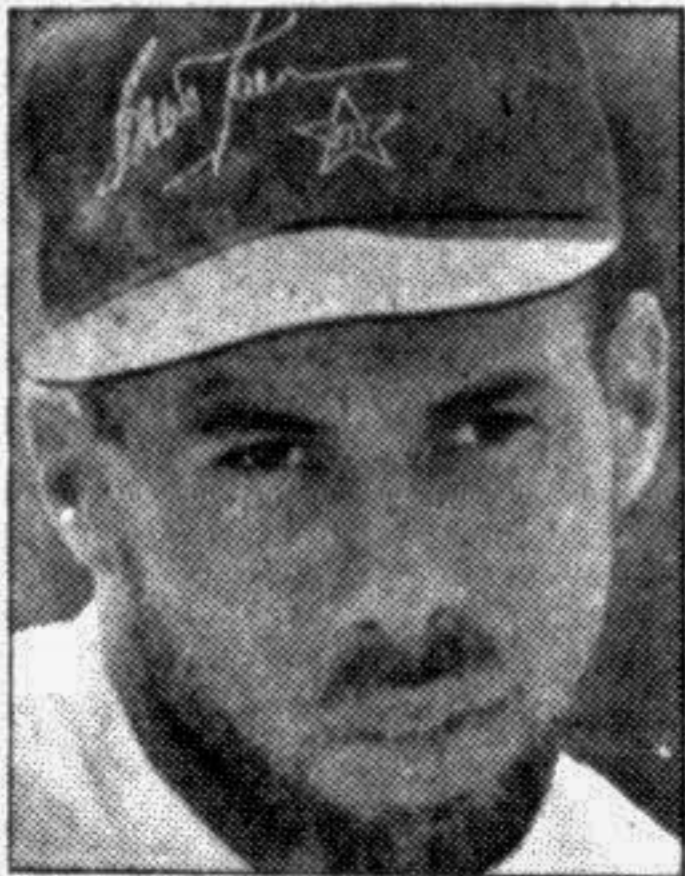


# WEEKEND SPORTS WEEKEND

## Top twenty in world cricket

By Mithu Zafar from Australia

AFTER the third Test match between Australia and the West Indies in Port of Spain in which the team from Down Under suffered a humiliating defeat, Jimmy Adams (923 pts) still retains his position as the top batsman in Test cricket, according to the latest Coopers and Lybrand ratings. Steve Waugh has catapulted himself three steps in the ladder with five performances in the Test series so far. But he is far behind Adams as the second top batsman. Brian Lara has dropped to number four because of his ordinary performance with the willow in the current Test series. Michael Slater, although still the best among the Australian batsmen, is number eight in the world. He has lost one position after his dismal show in the third Test. David Boon and Mark Taylor are the other Aussie players to be among the top twenty. The Australian captain has improved his rating (by two positions) but his compatriot is struggling to find form against the West Indian pace attack.



JIMMY ADAMS

### Batsmen

1. J Adams (WI)
2. S Waugh (Aus)
3. Inzamamul Huq (Pak)
4. B Lara (WI)
5. S Tendulkar (Ind)
6. G Thorp (End)
7. S Malik (Pak)
8. M Slater (Aus)
9. M Atherton (Eng)
10. D Haynes (WI)
11. G Kirsten (SA)
12. W Cronje (SA)
13. A Stewart (End)
14. G Hick (Eng)
15. R Richardson (WI)
16. H Tillekeratne (SL)
17. D Boon (Aus)
18. A Flower (Zim)
19. M Taylor (Aus)
20. M Azharuddin (Ind)

Waqar Younis has moved from third to second place with 859 points but is way behind Ambrose in terms of points earned. Wasim Akram holds on to the eighth place. Heath Streak of Zimbabwe has moved one position from fourth to third — his extraordinary performance against the Pakistanis helped him achieve that. Anil Kumble maintains his sixth position among the world's best.



C AMBROSE

### Bowlers

1. C Ambrose (WI)
2. W Younis (Pak)
3. H Streak (Zim)
4. D Villiers (SA)
5. S Waugh (Aus)
6. A Kumble (Ind)
7. C Walsh (WI)
8. W Akram (Pak)
9. V Raju (Ind)
10. C McDermott (Aus)
11. A Donald (SA)
12. B McMillan (SA)
13. K Benjamin (WI)
14. C Vaas (SL)
15. A Fraser (Eng)
16. D Gough (Eng)
17. C Matthews (SA)
18. G McGrath (Aus)
19. M Hughes (Aus)
20. P DeFreitas (Eng)

## Bulls will jive to Jordan beat

CHICAGO, Apr 27: Advice to the Charlotte Hornets and anyone else who might meet the Chicago Bulls in the American NBA playoffs: Get a lead and keep building on it until you hear the final horn, reports AP.

Because Milwaukee Bucks coach Mike Dunleavy says, "You let them say close, in most cases, you're going to go down."

In last year's second round loss to the New York Knicks, the Bulls repeatedly struggled in the fourth quarter. That shouldn't happen this year with Fourth Quarter himself, Michael Jordan, back from retirement.

He's got the ability to take games over and make anything happen, said Dunleavy, who coached the Los Angeles Lakers team that lost to Jordan's Bulls in the 1991 NBA finals — Chicago's first of three consecutive championships. "They can win it. The key for them is keeping games close."

Dunleavy isn't the only educated observer who considers Chicago a favourite, even though it probably won't have home-court advantage in any playoff round.

Charlotte coach Allan Bristow, whose team opens the postseason at home Friday against the Bulls. Knows they are better than their 47-35 record indicates. Chicago, 34-31 before Jordan returned is 13-4 with him.

"It's just amazing how much he is lifted that team," Bristow said. "They would have led the league in wins if he would have played the whole season."

Jordan, who averaged 26.9 points in his 17 games back, is the picture of confidence. "I wouldn't have come back," he said, "if I didn't think we were capable of winning."

Scottie Pippen, who has willingly slipped back into his No. 2 role, also likes the team's chances.

"People are expecting a lot from us. And we're expecting a lot from ourselves," he said. "If myself, Michael and Toni (Kukoc) can play really big throughout the playoffs, our chances look great."

Toni Kukoc, a fine offensive player, is out of position at power forward. He has been manhandled at times, forcing coach Phil Jackson to juggle

his lineup.

"There are a bunch of weaknesses on teams in the East. Whoever can exploit those is who's going to come out of it," Dunleavy said.

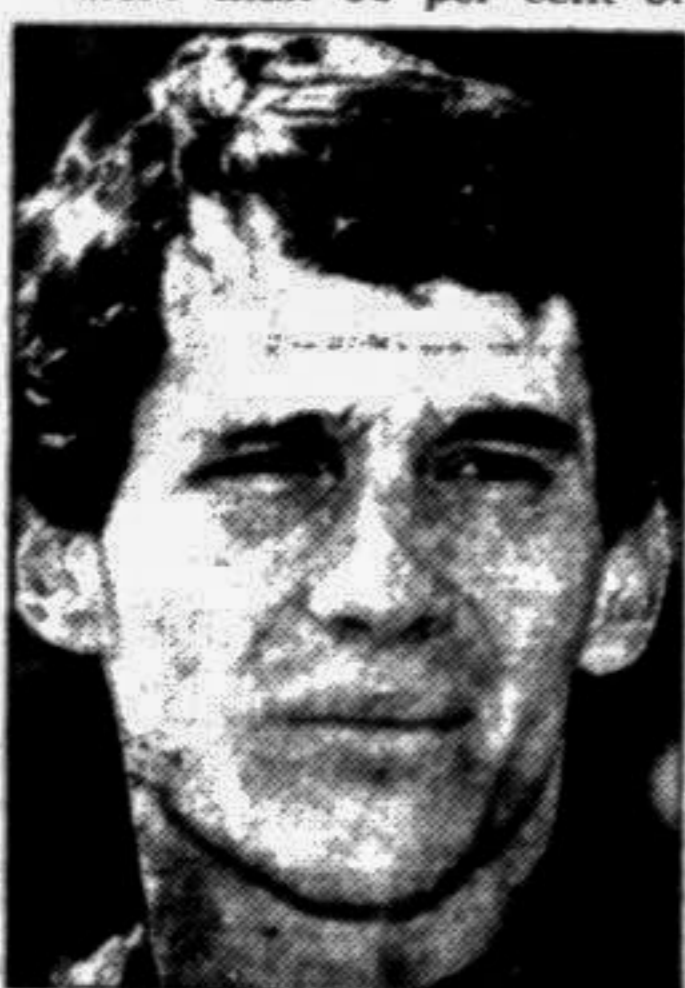
"Orlando's got their free-throw shooting."

"If I look at Chicago, the one thing I'd say is the power forward spot. Will they be able to shut down somebody with a big, tough power forward that can dominate a game?"

Said Jordan: "It's a concern. We don't have the power forward that we had two years ago (Horace Grant, now with Orlando). But we don't know that that's going to be one of the demands that's needed."

In other words, the league isn't as strong as it was during the Bull's championship years.

"Before, we were expected to win. There's pressure when you have one of the best records in the league and home court advantage," the coach said. "This is not a big standing year for us, so we haven't set up the precedent of this is our year, this is our championship, we deserve it, we've won 60 games."



AYRTON SENNA

## Remembering Senna in poignancy

IMOLA, Italy, Apr 27: The high-speed curve where Ayrton Senna died no longer exists.

The Tamborello, one of the most thrilling left-hand turns in Formula One, has been tamed into a S-shaped chicane. No longer will cars round the bend flat-out at close to 300 kph (186 mph), the speed Senna was travelling when he slammed into the wall on the seventh lap of the San Marino Grand Prix one year ago — on May 1, reports AP.

Returning to Imola this week, Senna's former rivals will weave their way through the revised Tamborello at speeds of around 160 kph (100 mph). A fire wall has been placed in front of the concrete barrier, where impact marks from Senna's Williams-Renault remain to this day.

And just above those marks, there is a shrine.

The wire fence attached to the wall is laced with dozens of flowers, and a wooden hoarding has been painted with messages of mourning, commemoration and celebration of the life of the greatest driver of his generation. Green and yellow — the colours of the Brazilian's helmet — are the colours of choice.

"Since May 1, it is God who sits at Senna's right hand," reads one message. "Your death has taken a dream out of me," reads another.

Beginning Thursday, drivers will face reminders of Senna at literally every turn at what is

virtually a new racetrack at the Enzo and Dino Ferrari Autodrome.

More than 50 per cent of

"As a professional, I am looking forward to racing there again," Jordan driver and Senna compatriot Ruben Barrichello said. "As a human, though, it will be very difficult."

Barrichello was involved in yet another spectacular crash during the ill-fated weekend a year ago but walked away with only minor injuries. It is not that accident, though, that will play on his mind this weekend.

"That became part of the past within a week, as soon as I got back into the car again," Barrichello said. "No, for me it will be difficult because of memories of Ayrton, because it is not such a long time ago that it all happened."

A year later, Formula One is still struggling to come to terms with Senna's death, who was mourned in Brazil as a national hero. The cars have been slowed down and the tracks made safer, but the emotions remain.

"It was a major tragedy, which ended illusions that Formula One was free from risks," said Ferrari driver Gerhard Berger, formerly a teammate — and close friend — of Senna. "I believe much has been done to improve safety since the deaths of Ayrton and Roland. Performances of cars have been reduced and circuits have been adapted to the new conditions... although the cost was some of the most exciting bends of auto racing."

Reigning world champion and last year's San Marino

## Schulz's promoter urges IBF to order a rematch

SAG HARBOR, New York, Apr 27: Heavyweight challenger Axel Schulz's promoter has urged the International Boxing Federation to overturn George Foreman's controversial victory of last Saturday, reports AP.

Promoter Cedric Kushner called the decision "wrong and unfair" in a letter to IBF president Bob Lee.

"The almost unanimous opinion of very objective observers to this bout is confirmed by the overwhelming media criticism of the decision, and further lends credence to our position that Axel Schulz should have been declared the winner and crowned the IBF heavyweight champion," Kushner said. Foreman, 46, kept his crown with a majority decision. Judge Chuck Giama made it a draw at 114-114, while Keith McDonald and Jerry Roth both favoured Foreman 115-113.

Kushner urged the IBF to either declare Schulz the winner or, at least order a rematch.

"If Foreman refuses, the IBF should vacate him of the title and have Axel Schulz immediately fight the current number one contender for the IBF heavyweight championship."

Lee has said he expects the fight to be reviewed next week by a special IBF committee. The review of the video could prompt IBF officials to order a rematch.

## Houston memory still haunts Heinen

THE WOODLANDS, Texas, Apr 27: Any time Mike Heinen gets discouraged on the golf course, he remembers the 1994 Houston Open, his first and only US PGA Tour victory, reports AP.

"In the final round, I had a horrible front nine, but I turned it around with three birdies on the final eight holes," Heinen recalled. "Looking back at the Shell Houston Open gives me confidence I can come on and turn that kind of round around."

It's always good to have that in the back of your mind.

Winning the tournament gave Heinen other obvious advantages and made him more recognizable to the galleries, so he'll be especially noticed on Thursday when he begins defense of his title over The Woodlands TPC course.

Master champion Ben Crenshaw and US PGA Tour top money leader Peter Jacobson also are entered in the tournament. Crenshaw is No 5 the money list.

"I don't see how guys like Greg Norman do it," Heinen said. "It's been really great, especially right after it happened, but it really takes a lot of time. It's nice to be recognized."

"You're walking along and someone says 'Hey, that's Mike Heinen, let's get his autograph.' Before, it was 'Who's he?' Is he a player?"

Heinen started last year's final round in a three-way tie with Tom Kite and Jeff Maggert, but the title came down to a fight over the final seven holes with Hal Sutton.

winner Michael Schumacher, who was criticised for taking part in the ritual champagne-spraying celebration after Senna's accident, would rather not be racing here at all.

Asked if the Imola race should have been cancelled, Schumacher said, "I would have liked to have gone to Jerez (Spain), or another track, instead of Imola."

Perhaps even more nervous than Schumacher on the return to Imola will be chairman Frank Williams and other officials with the Williams team, who are the subjects of a criminal investigation by Bologna judge Maurizio Passarini in connection with Senna's death.

According to reports leaked from the court last February, a panel of experts who examined the wreckage of Senna's car concluded that his accident was caused by a break in the steering column, which had been weakened by a Senna-requested modification before the race.

The remains of Senna's Williams-Renault FW 16 are still impounded, and Passarini recently asked for a six-month extension of the investigation to gather additional evidence. It is believed he also wants to interview Williams officials again.

"The San Marino Grand Prix will be emotional for everyone in the team," Williams said. "Each member will deal with this in his or her own private way."

## Philippe Decoufle: The return of the prodigal son of dance

After the world triumph of the ceremonies of the Winter Olympics, people had rather forgotten the magician Philippe Decoufle. The man who had created ice-skating dreams and had had strange birds fly in the sky of Albertville, seemed to have disappeared.

In fact, the choreographer had been on tour with Royal de Luxe (a theatre troupe) and Mang Negra (a rock group), on the Melquiades, a cargo ship, spreading joy, disorder and fascination in South America. On his return, he continued to work, preparing a new creation which was also to go on tour, and he did all this with such insistence in his effort that it was like a wish to remind people that, in spite of his repeated success in the media, the elf of contemporary dance was well and truly part of the family of dancers.

That is, moreover, what makes him so likeable. With his almost childlike air, his mischievous look behind little glasses and his dishevelled hair, Philippe Decoufle adopts simplicity as if to show that nothing has changed. He is a great success with the media but he wants people to remember that his art does not lie in that.

There is something miraculous about this choreographer's path. It all happened to him quickly and while he was young. He was a student at the National Circus School. Then he learnt mime at Marcel Marceau's school. After that he joined the National Choreography Centre in Angers (CNDC), headed by Alvin Nikolais, one of the fathers of American dance. The latter recruited him for his company.

At the age of eighteen, Philippe Decoufle became a professional. He has always had

a lot of gratitude towards the great master. He taught me a lot of things," he confides. "He had a very strong technique, but he also did the music, the lighting and the costumes. And

lowed a faultless, but completely traditional, path. It was that of a brilliant, versatile young artist, involved in the slightly disordered adventure of Young French Dance. But,



PHILIPPE DECOUFLE

then, he had a very elaborate way of creating which was taught at the CNDC, but he himself was quite capable of not respecting the rules that he had decreed. Every time I make a creation with light, I think of him."

In 1983, Decoufle's first creation, Vague Cafe, won the Baignolet competition. It was the time when this disorganised, bohemian competition set the tone for the new choreographic wave in France. So, until 1989, he had fol-

for the celebrations of the bicentenary of the French Revolution, Jean-Paul Goude commissioned Philippe Decoufle to create a ballet. The clog dance was integrated in the Bleu-Blanc-Goude parade and it was a hit. This experience was to win over the International Olympic Committee. The rest of the story is well-known. He was put in charge of the opening and closing ceremonies for the 1992 Olympics in Albertville. — Philippe Verribe.

## Murdoch stirs up furore

LONDON, Apr 27: While more of English rugby league's top stars decided Wednesday to join Rupert Murdoch's Super League rather than Kerry Packer's Australian League, the demise of some of England's famous clubs was debated in Parliament, reports AP.

Murdoch's decision to revolutionize the sport by setting up star-studded leagues in Australia and Europe has thrown it into turmoil.

Some stars of such big clubs as Wigan and Leeds have opted for the Super League, with will played in the summer rather than winter months, while others have agreed to join Packer's rival league.

But the Super League means that famous clubs such as Wakefield Trinity, Hull Kingston Rovers and Featherstone Rovers will disappear in mergers if they are to play a part in Murdoch's 77 million-pound (dls 132.2 million) operation.

If they don't, they likely will be left behind and even go out of business.

With Packer beefing up his own league to counter plans by fellow media mogul Murdoch, emotions ran high in Parliament when lawmakers urged the government to launch an inquiry and protect the small clubs.

"Why should a battle between two Australian media magnates result in my constituents losing something very important that we have had for

120 years, Wakefield Trinity RLFC?" said David Hinchcliffe, who is a shareholder of the club.

"Why should a power struggle on the other side of the world mean that I should lose the team that I have supported through thick and thin

## Japanese TV rights for '96 Games sold

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Apr 27: The Japanese broadcast rights for next year's Atlanta Olympics have been sold for dls 99.5 million, the IOC announced Wednesday, reports AP.

The International Olympic Committee said the exclusive rights were awarded to the Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK) network and the National Association of Commercial Broadcasters.

A brief IOC statement said the decision was made "in close consultation" with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

ACOG gets approximately 60 per cent of the rights fees. Japan is typically the third biggest market for Olympic television rights.

NBC acquired the US rights last year for a record dls 456 million. The European Broadcasting Union was awarded the European rights for dls 250 million.

## Tyson again in trouble

NEWARK, New Jersey, Apr 27: Before Mike Tyson returns to the ring, he had to return to court, reports AP.

A trial date of June 12 has been set in Newark for a civil suit originally filed before the boxer spent three years in prison in Indiana on a rape conviction.

Phyllis Polaner, a former publicist for Tyson's ex-wife, Robin Givens, filed the suit in Superior Court on Aug 17, 1990.

Polaner's original suit, now reopened, charged that in 1988, the then-heavyweight champ sexually assaulted and threatened to kill her. The suit named Tyson, Givens, and Givens' mother, Ruth Roper.

The lawsuit accused Tyson of abusing the three women while Tyson and Givens were going through a bitter divorce.

The suit referred to an incident on Sept 20, 1988, in which Tyson allegedly chased the three women from a hotel suite and held them in a glass-enclosed elevator against their will.

Tyson's attorney, Richard Schachter of Somerville, had no comment when contacted by The New York Times. Neither did Polaner's attorney, Howard Brechner of Parsippany.



Stars and Stripes syndicate head Dennis Conner gets a hug from his wife Daintry after his victory in Citizens' Cup defender series over Mighty Mary in San Diego, California on Apr 26. Conner and his crew will now defend America's Cup against Tean New Zealand. — AFP/UNB photo

## Holyfield returns in May

NEW YORK, Apr 27: After a year's layoff former champion Evander Holyfield is returning to the ring next month with little regard for today's heavyweight champions, including George Foreman, reports Reuters.

"He fought me three years ago and he was able to get his punches off a little quicker," Holyfield said on Wednesday of the 46-year-old Foreman, whom he beat in 1991 and who won a controversial majority decision victory over German Axel Schulz last Saturday in Las Vegas.

But he never thought that much of Foreman's ring skills, anyway.

Against Schulz, Holyfield said, "It was the same George Foreman. He got outboxed, but I never thought he outboxed anybody."

"He just didn't get out there and get on him."

Holyfield made his comments in a telephone news conference from his training camp in Houston in advance of his May 20 bout against Ray Mercer, 23-2-1, at the Atlantic City Convention Centre.

The 32-year-old Holyfield, 30-2, has not fought since losing the World Boxing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) titles to Michael Moorer last April when he announced his retirement after being diagnosed with a heart ailment.

Subsequently given a clean bill of health clearing the way for his return, Holyfield was more than eager to comeback after seeing Oliver McCall, Bruce Seldon, Riddick Bowe and Foreman become champions in the fragmented division.

"The first one who can give me the opportunity to fight for the title, I would love to fight him," Holyfield said. "It's a wide-open division."

Holyfield contends that he feels better now than at any other time in his pro career, which began in 1984.

"I've had time to rejuvenate," said Holyfield, who was undisputed heavyweight champion from 1990-92 before losing to Bowe. Holyfield regained the WBA and IBF titles from Bowe November 6, 1993.

"It's mental thing. I've always kept my body in shape," said Holyfield.

"Mentally you can lose focus. I never really got time off and once I did get the time off, it allowed me to think about why I really wanted to fight and if I wanted to get back into it."

"The time off let me know that I'm getting back in for all the right reasons."

"I enjoy what I'm doing and I'm always going to push forward."

## Perverved desire of Ms Simpson comes to light

LOS ANGELES, Apr 27: Brian "Kato" Kaelin provided his co-author with enough tawdry and damaging information about OJ Simpson to give defence attorneys cause for alarm and prosecutors reason to rejoice.

In a 92-point book outline of his interviews, obtained by The Associated Press, Kaelin describes Simpson's state of mind before and after the murders and says Nicole Brown Simpson feared her ex-husband would kill her.

But although the outline is damaging to the defence, it doesn't appear to contradict Kaelin's sworn testimony. Legal analysts say it would be risky for prosecutors to return Kaelin to the witness stand and confront him with the statements in the outline.

"I think they would make a big mistake by stalling everything for another week with Kato Kaelin, even though TV would love it," said Loyola University law professor Stan Goldman.

With the case dragging and the sequestered jury becoming rebellious, Goldman said the prosecution may do better to proceed to the heart of its case: DNA evidence that allegedly links Simpson to the murders of Ms. Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

The outline by writer Marc Eliot, as well as 17 hours of taped interviews, have been subpoenaed by prosecutors and given to attorneys for both sides. The authenticity of the AP's copy of the outline was confirmed by three sources.

In the outline Eliot quotes Kaelin as saying Ms Simpson "sexually tormented" her ex-husband during a trip to Mexico in early 1994.

"She taunts him about his getting old, and losing his sexual prowess and confesses to Kato that the only reason she was ever with OJ was purely physical," the outline says.