

Inter's bit for Bosnia

CAVALESE, Italy, July 21: Players of Milan soccer club Internazionale have raised more than 80,000 dollars for Bosnian refugees after staging an impromptu auction for the right to wear the shirt number of their choice, reports Reuter.

Foreign players such as England midfielder Paul Ince, who were excluded from the auction at the club's training camp as a courtesy gesture, donated an average amount.

Ince agreed with Ince that I'd leave the number eight for him," said midfielder Ciccio Bertoni. "It seemed to us odd-figures that it was better to give the foreigners first choice as a welcome gesture. Paul was very grateful."

The club said the money raised by the auction would be given to the Red Cross to help refugees from the besieged mostly-Muslim enclave of Zepa.

East Bengal held

CALCUTTA, July 21: Title aspirants East Bengal were held to a goalless draw by a spirited George Telegraph in the Calcutta Super Division league match at their home ground here yesterday, reports PTL.

The Calcutta giants, who had defeated Peerless 1-0 in their opening match, dominated the game but failed to break the stalemate as they missed a number of scoring opportunities, particularly in the second session.

After starting on a slow pace, East Bengal stepped up the tempo after the breather but the goal remained elusive.

Star striker Bachung Bhutia could not do much despite breaking through the box a number of times.

The George Telegraph custodian Shantanu Roy brought off a number of spectacular saves to save his team from defeat.

Jackson won't go

LONDON, July 21: British high hurdles star Colin Jackson was forced to withdraw from next month's World Championships because of injury on Friday, reports AFP.

Jackson has failed to recover from the abductor muscle injury which troubled him during last week's national championships in Birmingham.

But the defending 110m hurdles champion also said that his mental preparations for Gothenburg had been hampered by the media and British athletics authorities.

In a statement issued through his agent, Sue Barrett, Jackson said: "After attending training session this morning I can confirm that I have not fully recovered from the injury which forced me to withdraw from the AAA championships."

"Mentally my preparations for the World Championships have been far from perfect with both my honesty and credibility questioned by the media and the British Athletic Federation," he added.

Shirt No 365 fetches a mini-fortune

ATLANTA, July 21: Olympic countdown shirt number 365 sold for 8,000 dollars here on Thursday as Atlanta resident Gweri Rissanen bought herself a little birthday present, reports AFP.

Rissanen had to beat out a tenacious competitor, Stephanie Blank, whose husband Arthur Blank is president of Olympic sponsor the Home Depot.

"He really wanted the shirt," Blank said of her husband, who acted as the honorary auctioneer on Thursday and stood by as his wife took her bid to 7,900 dollars before bowing out.

World badminton rankings

LONDON, July 21 (AFP): World badminton rankings after eight events in the 1995 World Grand Prix series published here on Thursday:

Men	Points
1. Deyanin Arbi (Ind)	1370
2. Ardy Wirananta (Ind)	1065
3. Herathwan Sukanto (Ind)	915
4. Allan Burt, Kusuma (Ind)	870
5. Fuang Permarti (Fil)	770
6. Sung Woo Park (Kor)	740
7. Paul Erik Hoyer-Larsen (Den)	685
8. Lee Kiung-Jun (Kor)	660
9. Jarko Suurtanto (Fin)	635
10. Jens Olsson (Swe)	635
Women	Points
1. Liu Xiangling (Swe)	1760
2. Sun Sujun (Ind)	1735
3. Bang Soo-Hyun (Kor)	1125
4. Jo Kyung Min (Kor)	780
5. Camilla Martin (Den)	770
6. Zhangying Ye (Chi)	710
8. Mia Avallina (Ind)	605
9. Yulsung Song (Kor)	475
10. Lee Joo-Hyun (Kor)	470

WIMBLEDON NOTEBOOK

Steffi keeps her promise

Tawfiq Aziz Khan back from Wimbledon

IT was a chance meeting. It could happen with another dame or a guy. But I was lucky. I bumped into none other than the World Number One Steffi Graf.

It was Saturday afternoon.

48 hours before the start of the 109th Wimbledon championships. There were lot of talks about Steffi's back pain for quite some time. In fact this physical discomfort had kept her away from tennis for

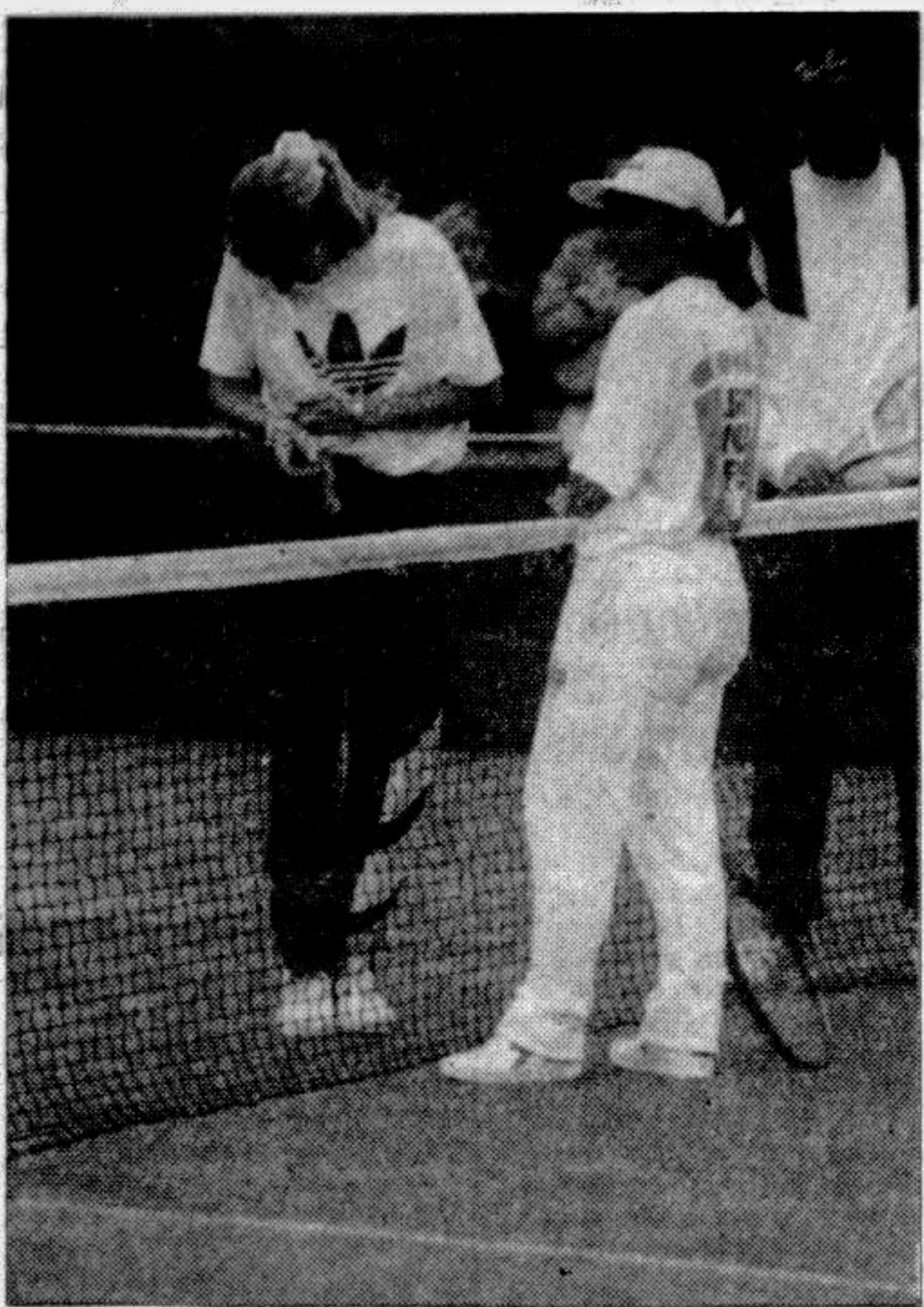
several months, including the French Open. But she was back at Wimbledon to try for her sixth title, which she finally won.

The day was cloudy and there was a strong wind blowing across the courts on the southern terraces. As I descended the stairs from the press room leading to the courts, I could hear the thud of the tennis ball hitting the highly strung tennis racquets behind the heavy curtains. Little did I know that I was in for a big surprise. I followed the sound and stroled into the narrow strip that divided Courts 3 and 4. And there I was watching Steffi Graf engaged in a fierce practice session going her right wrist a vigorous try-out. Apart from the back pain she had an injury scare for her wrist. She had skipped Fred Perry's memorial service and flew home for treatment on a sprained wrist. She changed her bandage between practice. She was hitting the ball real hard, serving with gusto and was all over the place. She was obviously not very happy with her performance. She did not stay at the court very long.

As she walked out of the court I approached her and asked "Is your wrist OK?" Her reply was firm, but polite "No, I am fine, I'm OK". I was tempted to ask her about last year's debacle at the French Open, but thought against it, and asked instead "Can you win the title this year?"

She thought for a moment and a faint glimmer crossed her eyes. "I don't know. But I shall try my best," she said.

She did try and won.



World No 1 Steffi Graf changing the bandage of her injured right wrist during a practice session at the Wimbledon Championships.

— Star photo by Tawfiq Aziz Khan

Chess goes high-rise

NEW YORK, July 21: The next king of chess will be crowned on the highest outdoor viewing platform in the world.

Making an announcement Wednesday of plans to stage the 1995 professional Chess Association (PCA) World Championship atop the World Trade Centre, officials said champion Gari Kasparov of Russia and challenger Viswanathan Anand of India will compete on the 107th floor observation deck starting



GARRI KASPAROV Sept. at 1,377 feet (420 metres), the deck is considered the world's highest, reports Reuter.

"This venue is going to increase the visibility of the event tremendously." PCA commissioner Bob Rice told a news conference explaining why the championship was moved from Cologne, Germany. This fits in with New York as the capital of the world and this is the most international sport there is billions around the globe play

this game." Kasparov, considered the strongest player in chess history, and Anand will face each other over the board cocooned inside a specially designed, sound proof glass enclosure that is being built for the best of 20 game championship worth one million dollars to the winner and 500,000 dollars to the loser.

The observation deck of the 110 story twin tower complex attracts some 1.8 million visitors a year with its spectacular, sweeping views of New York City and the region and some 250 spectators paying 15 dollars per game will be allowed to attend each playing day — Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays until the finish Oct 13 at the latest.

The event, sponsored by the US microchip maker Intel Corp, will have all the features of a multimedia presentation, including television coverage in Europe and

the United States, projection screens with graphics, live commentary and video coverage elsewhere in the centre, Rice said.

Kasparov, 32, will be defending the crown for the fifth time since he first won it from fellow Russian Anatoly Karpov in 1985. In 1993, he beat Britain's Nigel Short in London. Anand, 25, renewed for his attacking style and swiftness of calculation, earned the right to challenge Kasparov by

winning a series of matches against other Grand Masters over the past year.

The winner of the New York contest is expected to compete next year in a so-called reunification World Championship match against the winner of the championship run by the rival International Chess Federation (FIDE). In that match to be held later this year, Karpov is defending his FIDE title against Gata Kamsky of the United States.

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Derbyshire have the upper hand

CHESTERFIELD, England.

July 21: Derbyshire's rookies belied their inexperience for the second day running here on Thursday to put the county in with a real chance of victory over a powerful Young Australia side, reports AFP.

A team containing only three capped players erased a first innings deficit of 47 to establish a lead of 247 with two wickets still standing at the close of another hot day.

Derbyshire's recovery from the early loss of Adrian Rollin and Chris Adams also raised questions about the quality of the tourists bowling which, Brad Williams apart, was decidedly ordinary.

But they have a potential Test player of the future in wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist, another graduate of the Australian Cricket Academy, who scored his second explosive century of the tour.

The 23-year-old, who plays for Western Australia, hit four sixes and 14 fours on his way to 100 off only 107 balls, an innings which rescued the tourists from trailing in the first innings.

His thrilling stroke play combined with another efficient display behind the stumps showed why he is regarded as a successor to Ian Healy but he could not prevent Derbyshire ending an absorbing day's play in the ascendancy.

A maiden half-century from Tim Tweats, who needed lengthy treatment after being struck a sickening blow in the box by a lifting delivery from Williams, plus a stubborn 46 overs from Wayne Dessaur, allowed the county to launch a revival from the perilous position of 19 for two.

John Owens then blazed 45 off 33 balls and the lower order also prospered against a willing attack to take Derbyshire to 290 for eight and leave the tourists with a lot of work ahead of them on the final day.

Rearguard action rescues England

TAUNTON, England, July 21: Middlesex pair Umer Rashid and David Nash dug England out of deep trouble with a record-breaking partnership on the opening day of the first under-19 Test against South Africa here on Thursday, reports AFP.

The last-wicket pair put on 108 — a record for England under-19s — after the home side had crashed to 115 for nine.

The partnership made a mockery of the carnage which had gone before on a lively but true pitch.

Agassi, Edberg in quarters

WASHINGTON, July 21: Top seed Andre Agassi and second seed Stefan Edberg advanced to the quarter-finals of the Legg Mason tennis tournament with straight set victories on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Agassi easily defeated fellow American Michael Joyce 6-2, 6-2 despite a sometimes shaky first serve. His next opponent will be Mauricio Haded of Colombia, who beat Australian Mark Philippoussis 1-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7-3).

Edberg, the defending champion here, cruised past Kenya's Paul Wekesa 6-2, 6-1 despite nursing a sore shoulder that has shackled his serve and volley attack.

Edberg's quarter-final opponent will be Italy's Cristiano Coratti, who beat South African Grant Stafford 7-6 (8-6), 6-1.

Another case of ephedrine

MOSCOW, July 21: Russian triple-jumper Vasily Sokov has been banned for three months after testing positive for the stimulant ephedrine at the national championships in June, reports Reuter.

PDB finish 3rd in NBL vball

Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) won the third position in the NBL First Division volleyball league at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports BSS.

PDB defeated Bangladesh Police 15-6, 9-15, 15-11, 8-15, 15-9 in the third place play-off.

The final of the league, between the defending champions Titas Club and Bangladesh Rifles, will take place today at 4 pm.

Food and Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will be present as the chief guest.

De Silva scores his fifth ton Now a pair for Lara!



CANTERBURY, England, July 21: World record holder Brian Lara recorded his second duck of the match on Friday as West Indies cruised to a six wicket over Kent on the final day of their three-day match, reports Reuter.

Lara fell for the second time to paceman Julian Thompson, a fully qualified doctor playing in only his third first-class match.

Kent, resuming their second innings on 307 for eight after being forced to follow on, added 24 further runs before acting captain Courtney Walsh wrapped up the innings to finish with three for 77. Leg-spinner Rajindra Dhanraj enjoyed the chance of a lengthy spell, finishing with four for 88 from his 25 overs.

With only 90 required for victory, Sherwin Campbell set off in a hurry hitting former England fast bowler Martin McCague for two fours then hooking him high in the croud.

Stuart Williams made only eight before he was caught off McCague before Thompson struck when the trapped Lara LBW when the little left-hander shuffled across to the second delivery he received.

Campbell also fell to Thompson for 36 and it was left to Jimmy Adams with an unbeaten 34 to steer the tourists to victory.

An earlier report adds: Sri Lankan Aravinda de Silva continued his prolific form by stroking 102 for Kent to prevent the county being beaten inside two days by West Indies.

Kent were shot out for 95 in their first innings but, having followed on 242 behind, they battled to 307 for

eight at the close on the second day of the three-day match.

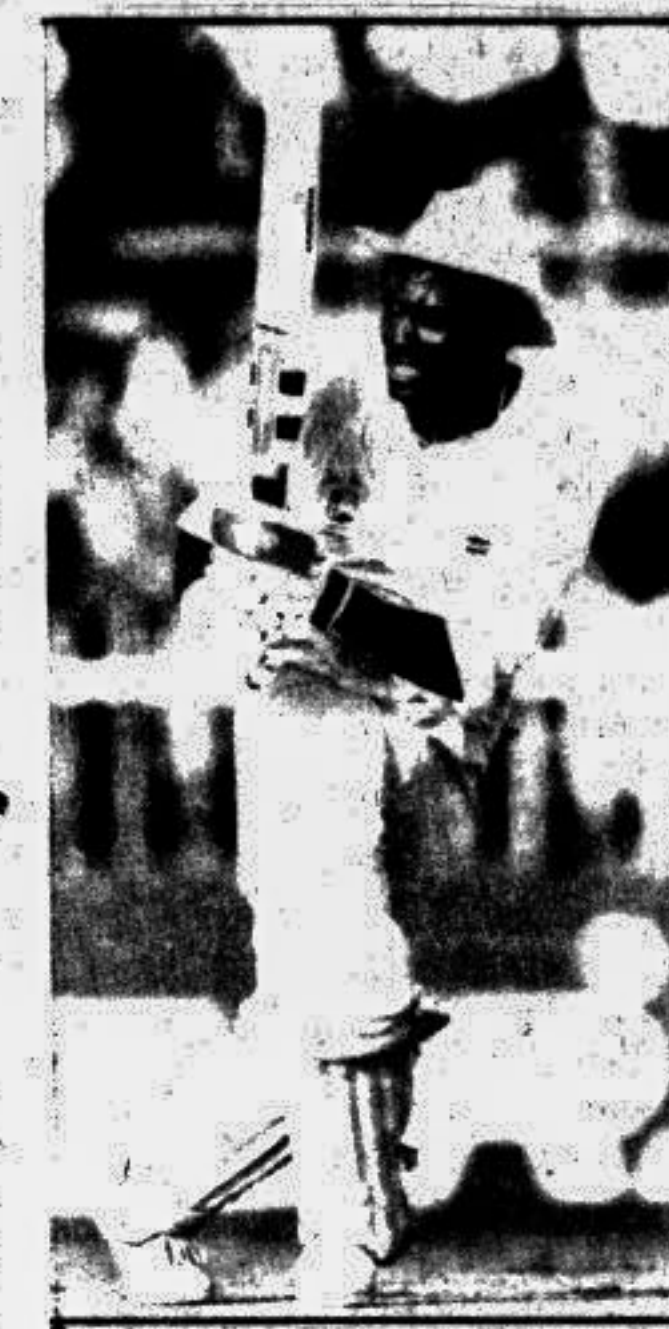
The county's recovery was spearheaded by opener David Fulton (89) and De Silva, who joined forces at 89 for three and put on 141 for the fourth wicket.

De Silva, in his first season of county cricket, has now scored five centuries —

first when, on a pitch which had looked placid while West Indies made 337 on the opening day, they crumbled inside 19 overs.

The destroyers were second string pacemen Vasbert Drakes (5-20) and Ollis Gibson (4-47). Both men bent their backs and made the ball lift sharply but they were aided by some woeeful shots.

When Kent slipped to 12 for two in their second innings a two-day defeat seemed likely but Fulton, showing good technique for three-and-a-half hours, and De Silva salvaged a measure of Kentish pride.



BRIAN LARA

two of them double hundreds — in his last seven first-class innings. He also hit a breath-taking 112 in a losing cause Against Lancashire in last Saturday's Benson and Hedges Cup final at Lord's. He now has a first-class aggregate of 847 from seven innings.

The Sri Lankan reached three figures against West Indies from 98 balls, hitting 16 fours and two sixes.

Kent's second innings was in marked contrast to their

Moldovan lifter banned for life

BUDAPEST, July 21: Moldovan weightlifter Fedor Kassapu, a gold medalist at the 1992 Olympics, has been banned for life after failing a drug test, the international federation said Friday, reports AP.

Kassapu, champion in the 165-pound (76-kg) class at the Barcelona Games, tested positive for the steroid mesterolone at the European Championships in Warsaw in early May. The federation confirmed:

Under federation rules, a first doping offense carries an automatic lifetime ban.

Virgiliu Inculeț, deputy manager with the Moldovan Sport Department, said the national weightlifting federation planned to appeal the ban and request the suspension be reduced to three or four years.

Kassapu became a national hero in Moldova when he won the gold medal in Barcelona as part of the Unified Team of former Soviet republics.

Smith's hurricane hundred



LONDON, July 21: England batsman Robin Smith hammered a chanceless, un-

beaten 156 as Hampshire put joint county championship leaders Northamptonshire to the sword on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Smith and his captain Mark Nicholas, who made 80 not out, shared an unbroken fourth-wicket partnership of 223 to power Hampshire to 353 for three at close on the opening day of the four-day match.

They came together at 130 for three and made their double century stand — a fourth-wicket record for Hampshire against Northants — with an effective blend of positive and watchful batting.

Smith, who reached three figures off 179 balls, has hit 30 fours in his five-hour stay, while Nicholas made the most of an escape on 13 when wicketkeeper Russel Warren missed a chance off Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble.

Champions Warwickshire, level on 169 points with Northants, failed to capitalise fully on a flying start against Glamorgan at Cardiff where they had the Welsh team reeling on 26 for seven.

Paceman Tim Munton did most of the damage in a burst of five for 15 from seven overs, but Warwickshire's

progress was checked by Antigua Hamish Anthony (38) and Neil Kendrick whose stand of 66 lifted the final total to 122.

Warwickshire slipped to 34 for three in reply before Douglas Brown (52) and captain Dermot Reeve (31) not

out edged the side to 169 for seven — 47 in front — at the close.

Pakistan left-arm fast bowler Wasim Akram and medium-pace Ian Austin led a Lancashire fightback against Gloucestershire on the open-



ROBIN SMITH ... 156 no

ing day at Cheltenham.

After being bowled out for 231, fourth-placed Lancashire reduced Gloucestershire to 44 for five at the close.

Akram dispatched openers Tony Wright and Matthew Windows in a spell of two for 18 before Austin recovered for Monte Lynch, Mark Alleyne and Viv Pike to end with figures of three for five in 7.3 overs.

Austin had earlier hit 43 and shared an eighth-wicket stand of 102 with wicket-keeper Warren Begg (61) to lift Lancashire's innings from the ruins of 87 for six.

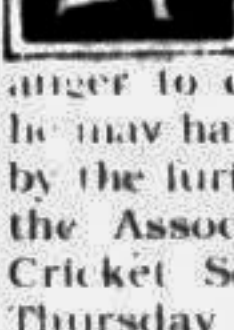
Opener Peter Bowler batted through the day for an unbeaten 159 as Somerset reached 304 for two by the close against Essex at Southend.

Bowler, who struck 19 boundaries, put on 202 for the second-wicket with captain Andy Hayhurst, who made 78 containing 11 fours.

New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns took three for 53 and hit exactly 50 for Nottinghamshire on a closely-contested first day against Surrey at Guildford.

Cairns and fellow paceman Andy Piek (3-40) helped to dismiss Surrey for 239, but Notts were themselves struggling at 55 for four before the New Zealander led a recovery to 144 for five at the close.

Illy's bolt from the blue



LONDON, July 21: England chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth is no stranger to criticism but even he may have been taken back by the furious response from the Association of County Cricket Scorers (ACCS) on Thursday for his choice of scorer for the winter tour of South Africa, reports AFP.

Illingworth's decision to give scoring's ultimate job to Malcolm Ashton, a former colleague during his BBC commentary days, has even given rise to mutterings of industrial action within the cloistered world of the county's scorers.

His appointment has angered the ACCS, whose 18 county scorers were informed of Ashton's appointment in a letter from Test and County Cricket Board secretary Tim Lamb.

"Feelings are strong on the subject but I don't think it will come to strike action," said ACCS chairman Ted Lester, who was Yorkshire's scorer for 30 years.

"I can well understand why the members are upset, especially after they have put in so much work to help launch the computer scoring system," he added.

With Illingworth in charge this winter and concentrating on playing matters, Ash-

ton is likely to take over some of the administration

work previously handled by

four managers.

But Lester insisted: "A lot of the county scorers could do that. The TCCB must think our members are numbskulls but a lot of them have a great deal of business experience."

ACCS secretary Vic Isaacs, Hampshire's scorer for the last 21 years, summed up the mood of his colleagues: "We all feel we have been kicked in the teeth by the TCCB."

"This has come completely out of the blue and most of our members are fu-

rious after all we have done for the TCCB in recent years, with the new computerised scoring systems they told us to implement.

"For years the job of scorer on tours has gone to country scorers as reward for the low-paid work we do," he added.

Lamb confirmed that Ashton was Illingworth's recommendation but said it was a TCCB decision to offer him the post.

"I realised there was going to be a measure of disappointment because it is regarded as a bit of a plum."

Sigei Kenyan sportsman-of-the-year

NAIROBI, July 21: Two times world cross country champion William Sigei has been named Kenya's 1994 Sportsman of the Year, reports AFP.

Sigei retained the world cross country title in Budapest last year and broke the 10,000 metres record in Oslo.

Hellen Chepng'ENO, the first African woman to win the world cross country senior women's title, was crowned sportswoman of the year, at a ceremony here late Thursday.