

Column One
SPORTS TALK



Jack Nicklaus

American golfer
"I can say now that I'll know when I want to get out, but when I reach that time, I may not know."
On retirement

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT coaches can often be tough, sometimes cruel and rarely nasty to the extent of being sadistic. There was this coach of the French national skiing team called Honore Bonnet. He was famous for his toughness. He was so tough that they nick-named him "Ski Napoleon". Now, that's tough.

As part of training, his ski players had to indulge in bull-fights, boxing bouts and bicycle races up the steepest Alpine roads. Once, when of the national ski players fell down from his bike and hurt himself badly, all that Bonnet said was, "Now you'll prefer skis, won't you?"

I tell we need a chap like Bonnet as our coach. Here the players often behave so tough off the field that coaches are busy round the clock appeasing some of the so-called stars.

Sports
WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN
(The rules are published every Saturday)

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-7.

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Oct 6, 1995)

1.	The colour of a basketball is usually	White	Orange	Green
2.	"Clean and jerk" is a term in	Weightlifting	Wrestling	Judo
3.	W. G. Grace was a famous	Cricketer	Referee	Swimmer
4.	In tennis "deuce" means	15-15	30-30	40-40
5.	One lap on an athletic track is	100 metres	200 metres	400 metres

Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No: _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (if any) _____

World gymnastics
Hosts dominate day 1

SABAE, Japan, Oct 2: Japan's men seized a surprise first-day lead at the World Gymnastics Championships Monday, buoyed by a partisan home crowd and what defending champion China angrily claimed was unfair judging, reports AP.

Japan, whose men last won the team competition in 1978, scored 282.060 points in the compulsory exercises, edging China by 0.012 point and delighting the mainly Japanese crowd in the 8,000-seat Sun Dome.

But Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine, all strong contenders, were among 12 teams yet to compete in the 24-team men's field, and the medal won't be decided until the optional events Friday.

Big bonus for Hamed

ADEN, Yemen Oct 2: The prize money Naseem Hamed got for winning the WBO featherweight title on Saturday came with a bonus Sunday, reports AP.

Hamed, the English-born son of a Yemeni father, received a Mercedes car, a villa in Yemen and a medal from Yemen's President, Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Presidential spokesman Abdu Bourgi told The Associated Press that Saleh had called the 21-year-old boxer in Cardiff, Wales, to congratulate him and tell him of the gifts heading his way.

Hamed won the title Saturday night with an eight-round win over Welshman Steve Robinson in front of 16,000 at the Cardiff Arms Park.

It was his 20th pro fight — all victories — and his debut as a featherweight.

Nannu clarifies position

Sports Reporter



"I'm a professional player and I've joined Mohammedan Sporting Club because I got a better offer from them," that was the blunt comment of Minhazul Abedin Nannu at a press conference at the tent of his new club at Motijheel area last night.

The country's most accomplished and sought after batsman, who ignited a bitter duel between the two perennial rivals of local sports signed for Mohammedans on Sunday. While speaking at a crowded press briefing Nannu further added that he was actually forced to take Abahani's check of Tk one lakh and 25 thousand.

Refuting categorically his former club Abahani Kira Chakra's allegation that Mohammedans had taken him at gun point, Nannu had a smile as he said, "It's not true."

Replying to a query, Nannu further added that he had called Mostafa Kamal over telephone on Sunday noon and had just said "I'm

sorry, I can't play for Abahani."

Earlier on Sunday, Mostafa Kamal, the Abahani cricket chairman, in a hurriedly called press briefing at the club's Dhanmondi tent had alleged that Nannu informed him over telephone that the latter's life was at stake and that he was forcibly taken away by Mohammedan officials. Nannu, who appeared



M A NANNU

to be very happy with his new club, finally said "I'm a player and I have every right to change my allegiance, but regarding my transfer this year things were muddled up quite unnecessarily."

Tanvir Haider, the Mohammedan official who was

instrumental in roping Nannu, while speaking on the occasion, said "Nannu's signing for Mohammedan is absolutely legitimate. We did not commit any sin by signing Nannu. Abahani's reaction was unfair and unsportsman like."

Mohammedan officials objected vehemently to Abahani's futile attempt to politicise the situation over Nannu's transfer.

Ctg MSC greet Dhaka AKC, MSC

CHITTAGONG, Oct 2: Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club congratulated Dhaka Abahani KC and Mohammedan SC for emerging champion and runners-up in the just-concluded Lifebuoy Premier Division Football League.

In a message, Alhaj Ruhul Ameen and Alhaj Rafiqul Anwar, Chairman and President respectively of Chittagong Mohammedan greeted the players, coaches and officials of the two soccer giants.

MSC complete full quota

Sports Reporter



The second day of the five-day inter-club cricketers transfer for the '95-96 Dhaka season passed rather peacefully at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office yesterday.

On the transfer business, only Mohammedan Sporting Club made a brief but important visit.

On the day, the joint-Premier League champions completed their quota of four pool players after ensuring the services of tall right-arm seamer Hasibul Hossain Shanto for one more year.

Besides, Mohammedans also included national opener-cum-wicketkeeper Jahangir Alam from Bangladesh Biman and signed up Sadharan Bima's new-ball bowler Zahid.

The other two players, who opted to stay with Mohammedans for one more year — left-arm spinner Mustadr Littu and seamer Morshed Ali Khan Sumon.

On the other hand Mohammedans' arch rivals Abahani Kira Chakra, who suffered a stunning blow on the opening day by losing Nannu, are yet to get involved in the transfer business although some of their players picked up their tokens on the day.

Apart from Mohammedans, the middlings and minnows of the two-tier cricket league crowded the BCCB office to form the best possible teams.

Although Kalabagan, along with their skipper Faruque Ahmed, made a belated visit last night, it was learnt that

they will complete most of their signings today.

Lee Germon (captain), Chris Cairns, Martin Crowe, Simon Doull, Stephen Fleming, Aaron Gale, Mark Greatbatch, Mathew Hart, Danny Morrison, Dion Nash, Adam Parore, Mark Haslam, Shane Thompson, Roger Twose and Brian Young.

FIXTURES
Oct 7-9: vs Board President's XI, Rajkot
Oct 12-14: vs Bombay, Bombay
Oct 18-22: First Test, Bangalore
Oct 25-29: Second Test, Madras
Nov 2-4: vs Indian Colts XI, Hyderabad
Nov 8-12: third Test, Cuttack
Nov 15: First one-day international, Jamshedpur
Nov 18: Second one-day international, Amritsar
Nov 21: Third one-day international, Goa
Nov 24: Fourth one-day international, Pune
Nov 26: Fifth one-day international, Nagpur
Nov 29: Sixth one-day international, Bombay.

Kiwis arrive in India



BOMBAY, Oct 2: The New Zealand cricket team arrived in India on Monday for a two-month long tour led by a captain who has no previous Test experience, report agencies.

The team, which will play three Tests and six one-day internationals is led by 26-year-old debutante Lee Germon.

But coach Glen Turner says Germon has proven a capable captain leading Canterbury in the domestic league.

"All the senior members of the side are quite happy with Germon's appointment as captain," Turner told reporters at the airport in Bombay, India's commercial capital, where the team arrived from Singapore.

The Kiwi captain and wicketkeeper is expected to play his first-ever Test at Bangalore, the inaugural Test of the series scheduled from October 18, which would be only the second instance in more than two decades of visiting team's skipper making his debut in this country after England's Tony Lewis in the 1972 tour.

The bespectacled Germon, who wears contact lenses while playing, said he didn't think his lack of experience in Test cricket was a handicap. "In fact it is a huge challenge for me and I cannot think of a better place to make a start than here."

Major question marks remain over the opening batting and slow bowling departments.

The late withdrawal of Auckland off-spinner Dipak Patel means the spin attack will be led by two 23-year-olds, Mathew Hart and Mark Haslam — the former still feeling his way at Test level and the latter recalled after an 18-month absence.

They face a big task, as do the medium to medium-fast bowlers — Danny Morrison, Simon Doull, Chris Cairns, Dion Nash and newcomer Aaron Cole — who will have their temperaments tested on often unresponsive pitches.

The side has experienced

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The side has experienced

Touchstone Div II chess champs

Touchstone Chess Club emerged champions in the Metropolis Second Division chess league to book a seat for the First Division from next season securing 20 points, reports UNB.

They beat their close contenders Golden Chess Club by 3-1 points in the seventh and last round of the Swiss league meet at the chess room of National Sports Council.

Avijatrik Daba Sangha finished runners-up with 18.5 points, also winning promotion to the First Division league, beating Uttara Daba Sangha by 3-1 points in the final round.

Two teams — Uttara Daba Sangha and Surjo Sathi Parishad — collected 17.5 points each, but the Uttara were placed third with progressive score of 115 in the tie-breaker against 92 of Surjo Sathi, who became fourth.

Surjo Sathi beat Friends Chess Union by 4-0 points in the day's last round match.

Deadly raise!

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, Oct 2: One of Honduras' best-known soccer players said Sunday that the military officers who own his team threatened to kill him for asking for a raise, reports AP.

"Soccer players are supposed to act like soldiers, and the military considers it a crime to tell the truth," said Juan Fernando Palacios, goalkeeper for the First Division Real Maya team, which is owned by the Honduran army.

Palacios said he began receiving threats after had asked the team to double his monthly salary of 250 dollars.

"If something happens to me or my family in the future, the armed forces are to blame," he said, without naming the individuals allegedly threatening him.

Defence spokesmen were not immediately available for comment.

CJKP Div 1 soccer

CHITTAGONG, Oct 2: Regency Sports Club blanked Agrabad Nowjoan Club 3-0 in the CJKP First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

The winners led the first-half. Regency's Iranian recruit Jashim Mehedi scored twice while Nurul Islam netted the other goal.

In the 18th minute, Regency took the lead through Jashim Mehedi who received the ball from Ayad Yusuf.

In the 82nd minute Nurul Islam doubled the margin for the winners off a ball also from Ayad Yusuf. Two minutes later Jashim Mehedi completed the rout from a penalty.

Dutch claim Euro women's vball crown

ARNHEM, Netherlands, Oct 2: The Netherlands used a home crowd to score their second upset in as many days Sunday, beating Croatia 15-7, 15-13, 15-2 to win the European women's volleyball championship, reports AP.

Sunday's victory came a day after the Dutch shocked defending champions and overwhelming favourites Russia 15-7, 15-7, 12-15, 15-7 in the semifinals.

The win also avenged a 12-15, 15-11, 15-11, 12-15, 15-11 loss to Croatia in a preliminary-round game on Wednesday.

Both finalists will play in Japan next month in the qualifying tournament for the 1996 Olympics.

TIPUS Tuesday TIPS

WHY are goals scored? To some people the answer to this question is simple, it is one word — "mistakes". To others it is complex because they believe there are literally hundreds of reasons, why goals are scored.

There are in fact, five ba-

Why goals are scored

- 1) Lack of pressure on the man with the ball.
- 2) Lack of support for the challenging player.
- 3) Failure to track players down.
- 4) Giving the ball away.
- 5) Set plays.



A lucky escape for India as Bulgarian Jordanmitev's third from right effort beats their custodian Debashish Mukherjee (on the ground) but somehow misses the goal post in a Nehru Cup encounter. — Star file photo

sic fundamental reasons why goals are scored.

The factors are:

- 1) Lack of pressure on the man with the ball.
- 2) Lack of support for the challenging player.
- 3) Failure to track players down.
- 4) Giving the ball away.
- 5) Set plays.

1) Lack of pressure on the man with the ball

Lack of pressure means the defender is standing too far away from the man with the ball to prevent his passing the ball forward.

Without question, lack of pressure on the man with the ball is the primary cause of goals and, therefore, the major deficiency in defensive play.

2) Lack of support for the challenging player

One of the reasons why challenging players do not adopt a position close enough to their opponents is that they have a constant awareness of the space behind them and a concern for the consequences if their opponent dribbles past them. The presence of a supporting player, therefore, is of double value. In the first place he is there if required in the event of the challenging player being beaten. And secondly he can and will give the challenging player the confidence and encouragement to move in close on his opponent.

The supporting player should always be nearer to his own goal than the challenging player. His job is to challenge for the ball and win it if the challenging player is beaten.

The most common fault amongst supporting players

down is failure to run with opponents and keep goal-side of them.

This quality in defending is becoming more and more important as modern strategy develops. It is common in modern football to see teams playing with four or five players in midfield and just one or sometimes two forward players. There is, therefore, even greater importance placed upon midfield players who can move forward into advanced positions and score goals. Defenders, therefore, must be watchful of any player who moves forward or who threatens the back of the defence. A defender who tracks down his opponent must be in a position to challenge for the ball should it be played to his opponent. It is a major fault amongst defenders in general to allow opponents to get behind and goal-side of them.

In the Mohammedan vs Abahani match last 24th September, Jewel of Mohammedans made a mistake in clearing the ball, but I shall blame Munna the team's other defender who did not come to the aid of Jewel and hence failed to track Abahani's Aslam down in time, thus giving him the time and space to score the first goal.

4) Giving the ball away

At all levels of football more goals are scored through giving the ball away than most people realise. Blame it on mistakes, carelessness the effect is the same, the opposition is usu-

ally given an excellent chance of scoring, especially if the ball is given away in the defending third of the field.

The moral here is that if you must lose possession of the ball lose it in the attacking third of the field rather than the defending third of the field. A further question

is posed: What is good football? Some players and some coaches think that intricate close passing in the vicinity of one's own goal is good football. This type of play often involves undue risks in which case it is inefficient football and, therefore, bad football. It should be understood that there are times when to play the ball safe into the grandstand is the correct thing to do. That's what Jewel should have done at the first opportunity and this could have prevented Aslam from scoring the first goal. If it is correct it is good football.

5) Set plays

This refers to goals scored from corners, free kicks and throw-ins. Forty per cent of goals are scored from set plays. It sounds an astonishing figure. But remember, these are occasions when it is not possible to exert close pressure on the man with the ball. These are also the occasions when many defenders lose their concentration and fail to do their job.

Many teams do not seem to appreciate the importance of set plays. One sees a general lack of organisation and planning at set plays. It is folly to spend endless hours practising passing and ball control if one then loses the match from bad marking at a corner, free kick or throw-in.

Bode Baba Lola of Mohammedans scored his goal against Abahani from a corner kick taken by his teammate. Do you remember? Bode was absolutely unmarked when he placed the ball in the Abahani net.

French renegade back



MANCHESTER, Oct 2: Frenchman Eric Cantona marked his return to soccer after an eight-month ban by scoring one goal and making the other as Manchester United drew 2-2 with Liverpool in the English Premier League on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Cantona struck home a 70th minute penalty, sending Liverpool goalkeeper David James the wrong way, to give United a share of the points in an evenly-fought match against their bitter rivals.

The result left United

third place in the table on 17 points and Liverpool fourth on 16. Newcastle, who won 3-1 at Everton earlier on Sunday, lead the standings with 21 points ahead of second-placed Aston Villa on 17.

Cantona, whose return to the United team for the first time in 248 days was responsible for an incredible atmosphere outside the stadium before the match and inside during it, took only 67 seconds to make his mark.

He provided the cross for Nicky Butt to score United's opening goal and send the United fans into ecstasy.

Old Trafford was transformed into Paris Parc de Princes as hundreds of French tricolour flags were hoisted high by United's fans — all with Cantona's face emblazoned on the white central panel.

But Liverpool, who have had some titanic struggles with United over the years, were in no mood to let the Manchester club celebrate all afternoon.

Robbie Fowler equalised for the visitors with a screaming drive after 34 minutes and the striker put Liverpool ahead in the 53rd minute after lobbing United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel.

In the same way he created United's opening goal. Cantona was central to United's equaliser. He made a penetrating run from the halfway line deep into Liverpool's half before passing to Ryan Giggs, who in turn was tripped by Jamie Redknapp.

Referee David Elleary immediately pointed to the spot and Cantona duly took the kick, scoring into the same net as his last goal for

United, against Blackburn on January 22 — three days before his attack on a Crystal Palace fan which resulted in his ban.

Cantona, with his shirt collar up in his own inimitable style, looked a little short of match fitness and sharpness, but made a telling contribution to United's cause on an afternoon of high emotion.

Lost in the fervour of Cantona's return was the fact that both teams dropped two points in their title challenge and Newcastle pulled further ahead of them at the top of the table by winning at Everton.

Asian Club Championship
Valencia stun Bagan

HONG KONG, Oct 2: Valencia of the Maldives pulled off the first shock of this year's Asian Club Championship by beating Indian champions Mohan Bagan in the first round, reports AFP.

A packed 11,500 crowd in the Male Stadium saw Valencia's Mohamed Maniku score an 86th minute goal which secured a 1-0 win in the second leg. The fancied Calcutta side won the first leg 2-1 but were eliminated on the away goals rule.

Valencia's reward is a second round tie against Thai Farmers Bank, who have won the Asian Club Championship for the past two seasons. The Bangkok side got a bye in the first round.

Other clubs to book a place in the second round over the weekend were Persib of Indonesia, Kopetdag of Turkmenistan and Kuwait side Al Salmiya.



Manchester United's prolific striker Eric Cantona (L) plays his comeback match against Liverpool after completing 8-month suspension from soccer at Old Trafford on Oct 1. — AFP/UNB photo