

Sport

Prabhakar quails Kiwis

AMRITSAR, India, Nov 18: India responded to a stern wake-up call from skipper Mohammad Azharuddin with an emphatic six-wicket win over New Zealand here Saturday to level the six-match one-day series 1-1, reports AFP.

The Indians, visibly chastened by a verbal lashing from their enraged captain after Wednesday's eight-wicket defeat in the first one-dayer in Jamshedpur, lifted their game to outplay the tourists.

A career-best five for 33 from seamer Manoj Prabhakar bundled out New Zealand for a modest 145, after Azharuddin won the toss and elected to field in conditions ideal for seam bowling at the Gandhi Stadium.

The Indians lost four top-order batsmen on a wicket that deteriorated progressively in the later stages of the match, but held on definitely to secure victory with 38 balls to spare.

New Zealand's hopes rose when they removed Prabhakar and Navjot Sidhu cheaply by the ninth over, and then dismissed star batsman Sachin Tendulkar (39) and Azharuddin (17) with India on 72 for four.

But Sanjay Manjrekar and Ajay Jadeja put on 74 for the unbroken fifth wicket to deny New Zealand further success in the low-scoring match.

Manjrekar, one of the two changes India made for the game, remained unbeaten on 44. Jadeja contributed a watchful 26 at the other end.

Azharuddin, already named skipper for February's World Cup, warned his colleagues against taking their places for granted after Wednesday's dismal performance in which century-maker Martin Crowe was dropped thrice.

The threat worked, as the Indians ran through New Zealand's batting in which

eight batsmen failed to reach double figures.

Hard-hitting opener Nathan Astle, fown in especially for the one-day series, top-scored for the Kiwis with 59. The next highest contribution came from 26 extras.

At 123 for nine, New Zealand were in danger of falling below 142, their lowest one-day score against India. But the last-wicket pair of Gavin Larsen and Danny Morrison prevented that by adding a valuable 22 runs.

Prabhakar, whose previous best was 5 for 35 against Sri Lanka, began the destruction by removing New Zealand's most experienced batsmen

Mark Greatbatch and Crowe in his first four overs.

In his second spell, the wily medium-pacer dismissed New Zealand captain Lee Germon and Dion Nash off successive deliveries. Morrison denied Prabhakar a hat-trick and remained unbeaten on two.

Off-spinner Ashish Kapoor, brought into the team to replace left-arm Utpal Chatterjee, justified his selection by conceding just 13 runs in his first nine overs.

But Larsen, another one-day specialist, spoilt those figures by taking 14 off



PRABHAKAR... 5 for 33

Kapoor's final over, including two consecutive sixes. He made 20 before being last out.

The third international will be played in the popular holiday resort of Goa on Tuesday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second one-day international between India and New Zealand on Saturday:

NEW ZEALAND				
Greatbatch c Tendulkar				
b Prabhakar	2			
Astle lbw b Tendulkar	39			
Crowe lbw b Prabhakar	2			
Fleming c Mongia b Srinath	3			
Twose b Prasad	5			
Cairns b Kumble	4			
Thomson c Srinath b Prabhakar	14			
Germon c Mongia b Prabhakar	8			
Larsen c Mongia b Srinath	20			
Nash c Mongia b Prabhakar	0			
Morrison not out	2			
Extras: (b-3, lb-12, nb-3, w-8)	26			
Total: (all out in 44.1 overs)	145			
Fall of wickets: 1-12; 2-22; 3-37; 4-57; 5-69; 6-96; 7-112; 8-123; 9-123;				
Bowling: O M R W				
Prabhakar	10	0	33	5
Srinath	8.1	1	26	2
Prasad	6	0	14	1
Kumble	6	0	16	1
Kapoor	10	1	27	0
Tendulkar	4	0	14	1

INDIA				
Prabhakar lbw b Nash	1			
Tendulkar c Germon b Thomson	39			
Sidhu c Fleming b Cairns	8			
Azharuddin run out	17			
Manjrekar not out	44			
Jadeja not out	26			
Extras: (b-2, lb-1, nb-4, w-4)	11			
Total: (for four wickets, 43.4 overs)	146			
Did not bat: N. Mongia, A. Kapoor, A. Kumble, V. Prasad, J. Srinath.				
Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-25; 3-65; 4-72.				
Bowling: O M R W				
Morrison	6	0	20	0
Nash	6	1	17	1
Cairns	7	0	33	1
Larsen	10	3	23	0
Thomson	10	1	38	1
Astle	4	0	9	0
Twose	0.4	0	3	0

Walsh named Richie's deputy Down Under

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Nov 18: Past bowler Courtney Walsh will be vice-captain to Richie Richardson when West Indies tour Australia starting next month, reports Reuter.

West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) announced the appointment of Walsh on Friday, having named Richardson to lead the team last month.

Walsh was vice-captain on the tour of England this year when he became the third West Indian to reach the landmark of 300 Test wickets.

West Indies open their Australian itinerary on December 5 and will compete in the three-team World Series limited overs tournament with Australia and Sri Lanka. They are not laying any Tests.

West Indies' squad of 15 comprises 12 of the players who toured England.

The party is completed by batsman Phil Simmons, all-rounder Roger Harper and paceman Anderson Cummins, who were recalled for the recent Champions' Trophy one-day competition in Sharjah.

Squad: Richie Richardson (Captain), Sherwin Campbell, Stuart Williams, Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams, Carl Hooper, Phil Simmons, Shivanarine Chanderpaul, Courtney Browne, Roger Harper, Otis Gibson, Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose, Ian Bishop, Anderson Cummins.

Gripping about ATP rules

FRANKFURT, Germany, Nov 18: Boris Becker called on Friday for the round-robin format at the ATP Tour World Championship here to be scrapped, reports AFP.

Becker, speaking after beating Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-4, 7-5 to reach the semifinals, said the usual knock-out system should be used at the 3.3 million-dollar event.

"In all the tournaments in the world we play the knock-out system," said the German. "Round-robin is not the format that we usually play."

"Normally, if you lose, you lose. You go home."

Becker voiced his grips after a gruelling victory here.

Had the match gone to three sets, South Africa's Wayne Ferreira would have taken the final slot in the last four, under rules which include the counting of sets won and lost in case of ties in win-loss records.

Becker added, "It's psychological. Some players play better under pressure and some play better when there's less pressure, when they have a couple of matches to go."

The close call with mathematics is not the first for Becker. In 1992, he notched two victories before coming up against Pete Sampras.

"I won the first set and lost the second in a tie-breaker. I was out of the tournament because of losing one set. It cannot be like that, it shouldn't be that way."

Kedah ban booters

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 18: The Football Association of Malaysia's northern Kedah state has banned five players for life for match fixing as officials stepped up bids to clean up Malaysian soccer, newsreports said Saturday, reports AFP.

Kedah's move followed a similar punishment unprecedentedly meted out on Wednesday by the National Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) on six players from eastern Sabah state.

Becker survives a scare



FRANKFURT, Nov 18: Boris Becker reached the semifinals of the ATP Tour World Championship by the thickness of a pocket calculator on Friday, reports Reuter.

A 6-4, 7-5 defeat of Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov earned Germany's triple Wimbledon champion his second victory in the last round of matches in the round-robin group stage.

Becker finished with the same 2-1 record in matches won and lost in the White

Group as American world number one Pete Sampras and South African Wayne Ferreira.

But Ferreira was edged out of the two semifinals spots from the group because he had the marginally poorest record of sets won and lost.

In Saturday's semifinals of the year-ending championship, Sampras will play compatriot Michael Chang while Becker takes on Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, who won the Red Group.

Sampras won the White Group with the best record of 5-2 in sets own and lost. But

the two per cent difference in the sets won between Becker and Ferreira was as tiny as the number of Kafelnikov fans in the packed Festhalle arena, just a short drive from Becker's home town of Leimen.

Becker won four of his seven sets played compared to Ferreira's five out of nine.

Earlier, former French Open champion Chang finally broke a dismal run of form at the event when he reached the last four after five years of trying with a 6-2, 7-5 win over compatriot Jim Courier.

The situation in the group was to close that Ferreira would have gone through instead of Becker if the German had dropped a set in his victory over Kafelnikov.

Becker fended off several break points against him in the sixth and eighth games of the second set before making a key break of serve to lead 6-5. But he had to produce some remarkable aces under pressure to save the day.

"The pressure was just so much more because I knew that if I had a bad 10 minutes or so he was going to get a break," Becker said. "I was not only battling against him but I was battling against me being out of the tournament."

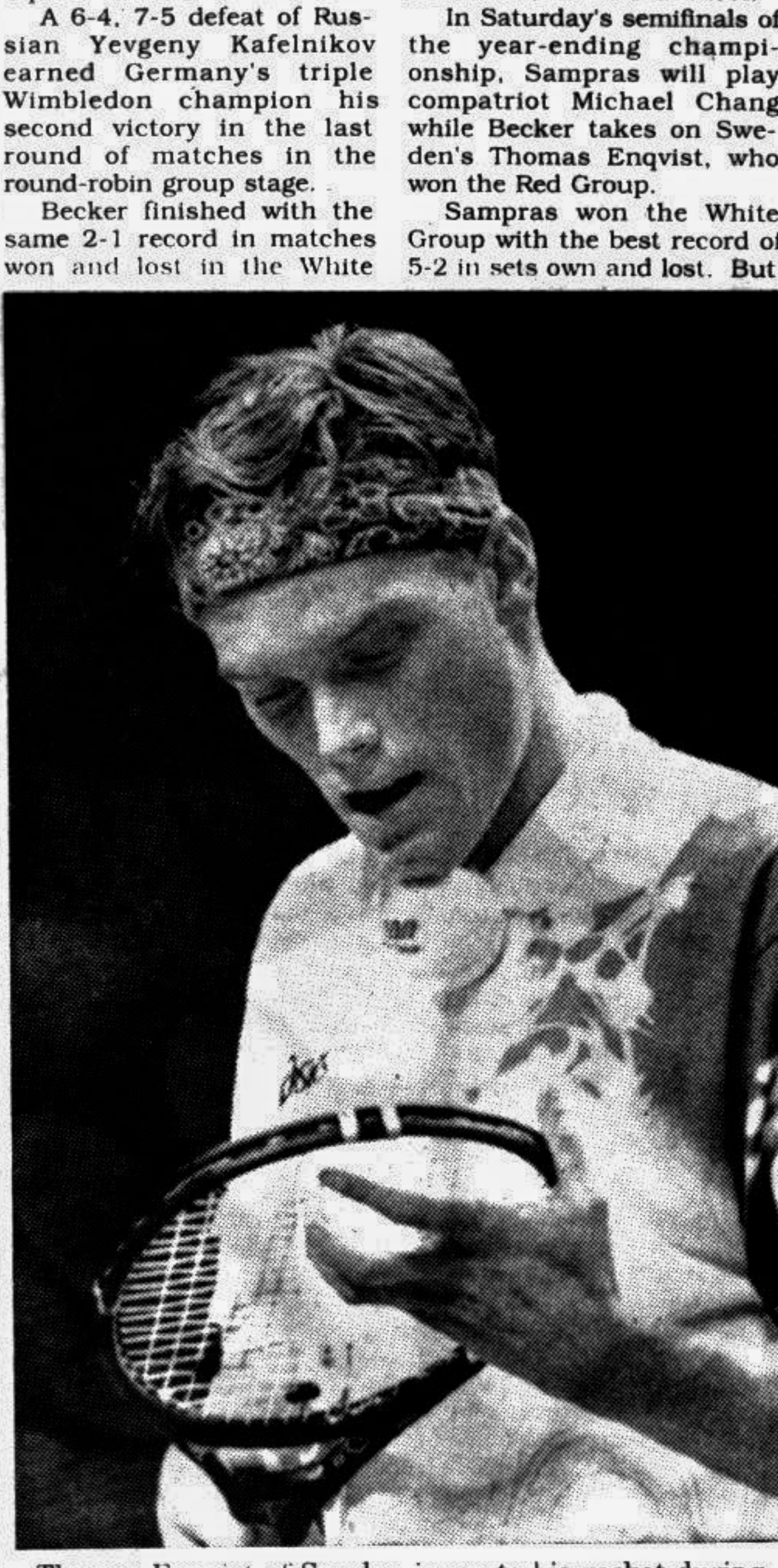
The 21-year-old Kafelnikov lost his nerve with the excitable crowd at the end of the first set when he was given warning for sticking up his middle finger a particularly undiplomatic gesture in Germany.

Ferreira was unlucky not to survive, especially since he had beaten Sampras on Thursday.

Becker, who went out of the tournament in 1991 in the similar circumstances, called for the round robin format to be abolished and replaced with knockout system.

Chang has competed five times at the Frankfurt Championship and the identical event it replaced on the Tour, the Masters which was held in New York.

But until Friday he had never reached the semifinals after just three victories in 14 matches.



Thomas Enqvist of Sweden inspects his racket during his group match against Austrian world No 3 Thomas Muster at the ATP World Championships in Frankfurt on Nov 17.

World Cup men's v'ball on

TOKYO, Nov 18: Barcelona Olympic champions Brazil and two-time world champions Italy got off to a winning start on Saturday as they compete for supremacy in the World Cup men's volleyball tournament, reports AFP.

The Brazilians, whose female teammates took the silver medal behind Cuba here Friday, rallied to a 15-8, 15-13, 15-8 victory over the United States in Kumamoto, Western Japan.

"It's always tough to play the Americans," said Brazilian coach Jose Guimaraes.

"My players lost concentration and struggled in the second set, but substitutes Nalbert Bitencourt and Fabalo Marcelino came to the rescue. I'm very content with a 3-0 victory," he added.

The Italians, who were runners-up in the 1989 World Cup but failed to qualify for the 1991 cup, powered past Egypt 15-5, 15-2, 15-8 at the National Yogyo Gymnasium in Tokyo.

Barcelona Olympic silver medalists, the Netherlands, were 15-11, 15-4, 15-5 winners over Tunisia, while Seoul Olympic bronze medalists Argentina fought off a tough two hour 15 minute match against China for a 15-10, 9-15, 15-10, 15-11 victory.

Cuban spikers' superb treble

OSAKA, Japan, Nov 18: World champions Cuba became the first-ever team to win the World Cup women's volleyball tournament for a third straight time when they whipped Japan on the final day Friday, reports AFP.

The Cuban women, also the Barcelona Olympic champions, stayed calm against a vociferous local crowd to score a 15-11, 15-8, 15-12 win to wind up the 12-team round robin with 11 straight wins.

The Japanese players always took the offensive. "We tried to defend carefully against their good serve and country attacks," said Cuba's coach Eugenio George.

"I feel the level of volleyball is getting higher and higher. Countries like Brazil, the Netherlands, China, Korea and Japan are excellent and the others have a lot of possibility," he added.

South American champions Brazil, whose only loss came at the hands of the Cubans here, trounced Peru 15-5, 15-2, 15-0 for a 10-1 win-loss record to be satisfied at second place.

But Brazilian coach Bernardo Rezende has already set her eyes on beating the reigning champions in the Atlanta Olympic Games next year.

"I think matches in the World Cup were wonderful. It would be nice if our team would be able to play Cuba again. I believe, our team should be better if two absentees had played with us here," he said.

Cuba, Brazil and China took top three places here to join hosts the United States in the Olympics.

Aussies incuse Pakistan

HOBART, Australia, Nov 18: Australia withstood the loss of match-winning leg-spinner Shane Warne with a broken toe to take a firm grip on the second Test against Pakistan on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Warne watched from the pavilion at Bellerive Oval as Australia built a commanding lead of 176 runs with all their second innings wickets in hand and three days left to play.

Making light of Warne's absence, Australia dismissed Pakistan for 196 early in the final session after the tourists surrendered their last six wickets for the addition of 48 runs.

Australia were 107 for no wicket after 24 overs at close of play on a cold, blustery day cut short by 22 minutes because of three interruptions for rain.

Opener Michael Slater was unbeaten on 62, including six fours and one six, alongside his captain Mark Taylor on 42.

Their brisk partnership, the highest of the match so far, dramatically swung the Test in Australia's favour.

Warne, who took 11 wickets as Australia won the first Test by an innings and 126 runs, will not bowl or field during the rest of the match and will only bat again in an emergency.

Pakistan, resuming on 33 for two in reply to Australia's first innings 267, lost their way between lunch and tea, losing five wickets.

Only number three batsman Rameez Raja, who scored 59, and Ijaz Ahmed, unbeaten on 34, offered any real resistance.

Without a recognised spinner in Warne's absence, Australia relied on pace trio McDermott, Paul Reiffel and Glenn McGrath, who claimed

nine wickets between them.

Reiffel proved the most menacing, taking four for 38 in his best bowling performance in a Test match on home-soil.

McGrath took three for 46 and McDermott, who has struggled for form during the series to date, finished with two for 72.

Medium pace all-rounder Steve Waugh chipped in with one wicket.

Rameez lasted more than two hours at the crease before he gave Reiffel a low return.

Ijaz Ahmed was Pakistan's second highest scorer in his first innings since joining the tourists one week ago as a replacement for opener Saeed Anwar, who remained in Pakistan after being struck by a virus.

After the batsmen struggled for runs during the first two innings, Slater and Taylor suddenly found the wicket easy.

Fittingly, Slater posted the century partnership, their ninth in Test cricket, by smashing the ball out of the ground with a hook shot off pace bowler Mohammad Akram.

Pakistan captain and fast bowler Wasim Akram, who had a confident appeal for caught behind against Slater turned down early in his innings, showed his frustration at the turn of events.

He was penalised two runs by English umpire Dickie Bird under the new experimental laws regarding intimidatory bowling for sending down three successive bouncers at Taylor after being warned earlier in the over.

Warne fractured the big toe on his left foot on Friday when he was struck by a yorker from Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis.

"I knew as soon as the ball hit me that the toe was broken," Warne said in a state-

ment.

"It is obviously very disappointing because I had hoped to play a role for Australia in the match," said Warne, adding that he hoped to be fit for the third Test, starting in Sydney on November 30.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the second Test between Australia and Pakistan at Bellerive Oval on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 267 (Mark Waugh 88; Mush-taq Ahmed five for 115.)

PAKISTAN: First Innings (overnight 33 for two)

Elahi b McGrath	13			
Sohail c Healy b Reiffel	32			
Mush-taq lbw b McGrath	59			
Rameez c and b Reiffel	5			
Izzat-ul-Haq c Healy b S Waugh	27			
Ijaz not out	34			
Basil lbw b McGrath	2			
Moin b McDermott	12			
W Akram c Taylor b McDermott	2			
Waqar c Julian (sub) b Reiffel	10			
M Akram lbw b Reiffel	10			
Extras: (lb-1, nb-6)	7			
Total: (All out) 66.5 overs	198			
Fall of wickets: 1-24; 2-24; 3-79; 4-126; 5-150; 6-155; 7-173; 8-183; 9-198.				
Bowling: O M R W				
McDermott	18	2	72	2
McGrath	19	4	46	3
Reiffel	15.5	3	38	4
M Waugh	8	0	23	0
S Waugh	6	0	18	1

AUSTRALIA: Second Innings

Taylor not out	42			
Slater not out	62			
Extras: (lb-1, nb-2)	3			
Total (for no wickets, 24 overs)	107			
To bat: David Boon, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Greg Blewett, Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Craig McDermott, Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath.				
Bowling: O M R W				
Wasim Akram	5	0	22	0
Waqar Younis	4	0	32	0
Mohammad Akram	6	0	40	0
Mush-taq Ahmed	7	3	8	0
Aamir Sohail	2	0	4	0

Don ducks blows well

NEW YORK, Nov 18: Boxing promoter Don King escaped conviction once again on Friday when federal prosecutors withdrew an appeal aimed at stopping a mistrial in his insurance fraud case, reports Reuter.

The second circuit court of appeals was scheduled to hear arguments on an emergency basis but the US attorney's office withdrew its application before the session started.

The developments are the latest in a bizarre courtroom drama that started on Thursday afternoon when US district judge, Lawrence McKenna took the unusual

step of ending the trial after the jury told him for the first time it could not reach a verdict. Normally, after the first such notification a judge will deliver what is called the "Allen Charge," which instructs the panel to go back and keep trying.

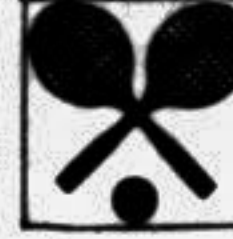
The judge said the jury was "irretrievably deadlocked" and it would be unfair to pressure them to reach a decision because one panelist could not remain past Friday noon. It was unclear why the deliberations could not continue with 11 jurors or an alternate.

Prosecutors immediately asked for an emergency hearing before the appeals panel seeking an order to force the jury to keep deliberating. Although an appeals judge told McKenna to keep the jury at least through Friday morning. When the hearing was to take place, the government withdrew its request shortly before the appeals court was to meet.

Prosecutors would not immediately comment on their action. McKenna said he would meet with lawyers on Nov. 28 to set a new trial date.

King has been on trial since Sept. 21 on nine counts of insurance fraud involving a 1991 Julio Cesar Chavez fight that was cancelled. Each count against him carries a maximum five-year prison sentence and a 250,000 fine.

Brenda blazes with aces



NEW YORK, Nov 18: Towering Dutchwoman Brenda Schultz-McCarthy powered her way past second seed Conchita Martinez of Spain in a 7-5, 6-2 upset, Friday to reach the semifinals of the two million dollar WTA Tour Championships, reports Reuter.

Schultz-McCarthy smashed eight aces, including one burner that registered 115 mph (185 kph) on the radar gun, in her 69-minute demolition of the Spaniard, who was still bothered by a stiff neck she treated with ice during the changeovers.

The victory put Schultz-McCarthy, who earlier disposed of seventh-seeded Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva, into the semifinals against German Anke Huber, who advanced with upsets over fourth seed Mary Pierce of France and sixth seed Kimiko Date of Japan.

"This was definitely one of the best wins of my life," said the 24-year-old Schultz-McCarthy, who had never beaten the Spaniard in four previous matches.

Martinez, last year's Wimbledon champion, was fuming after the match over a ruling in the first set that kept the ball girls from applying the ice treatment to the right side of her neck.

"I had too many enemies," said the world number two. "I have to play my opponent,

and then to find out your worst enemy is our Tour - it's just too hard to fight back."

During a changeover with the Dutchwoman leading 5-4, tournament supervisor Georgina Clark ruled that the ball girls were not allowed to help the Spaniard by holding the ice against her neck. Only a trainer can apply hands - on treatment to a player, Clark explained after the match.

Martinez had received such help from the ball girls on Wednesday when she fought back brilliantly from 1-6, 1-4 down to beat Croatian Iva Majoli 1-6, 7-5, 6-0.

Ironically, the same women, Jane Harvey, was the chair umpire for both of Martinez's matches.

"That was my worst moment, at 5-4 down," said Martinez, who eight previous times this year had battled back from being one set down to claim victory. "It pulled me out of balance. I couldn't do much after that."

The Dutchwoman clinched the first set in the 12th game with the set's only break of serve.

She forced a deuce in that game with a sizzling cross-court backhand that set up an easy overhead slam. A net-corded point then went against Martinez and Schultz-McCarthy took advantage with a running backhand winner into the corner to win it.

From there, the life seemed to go out of the Spaniard and the Dutchwoman played with supreme confidence.

Schultz-McCarthy had a lot to do with the Spaniard's ineffectiveness, applying non-stop pressure with net rushes behind her big serve and lashing out from the backhand side with big winners into the corners and down the lines.

"It's always nice to beat someone and have no excuses made after the match," said the 6-foot-2 (1.88 m) Schultz-McCarthy, who faced just one break point in the whole match.

"But I'm happy to have won, and I'm happy to be in the semifinals and it was one of my best wins ever."

Asked about how her neck was feeling, Martinez said: "Right now I can't even think about my neck. I'm too mad."

Sino lifter claims world mark

GUANGZHOU, China, Nov 18: China's Guan Hong claimed a women's world record on the opening day of the Weightlifting World Championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

Asian Games champion Guan snatched 81kg in the women's 46-kg category to beat the mark of 80.5 kg set by compatriot Yun Yanhong at the 1994 World Championships in Istanbul last November.

Guan won each section in her event. She had a two-lift aggregate total of 180 kg: 80kg in the snatch and 100kg in the jerk. The classification, unlike a world record, is compiled in multiples of 2.5 kg.

Nameir Kunjari was second and Tsai Huey-Woan of Taiwan third in each of the sections.

Zhang Xiangsen made it a golden double for China with the narrowest of aggregate victories over Turkey's Hall Muthu in the men's 54 kg category.

India's '83 WC cricket warriors honoured

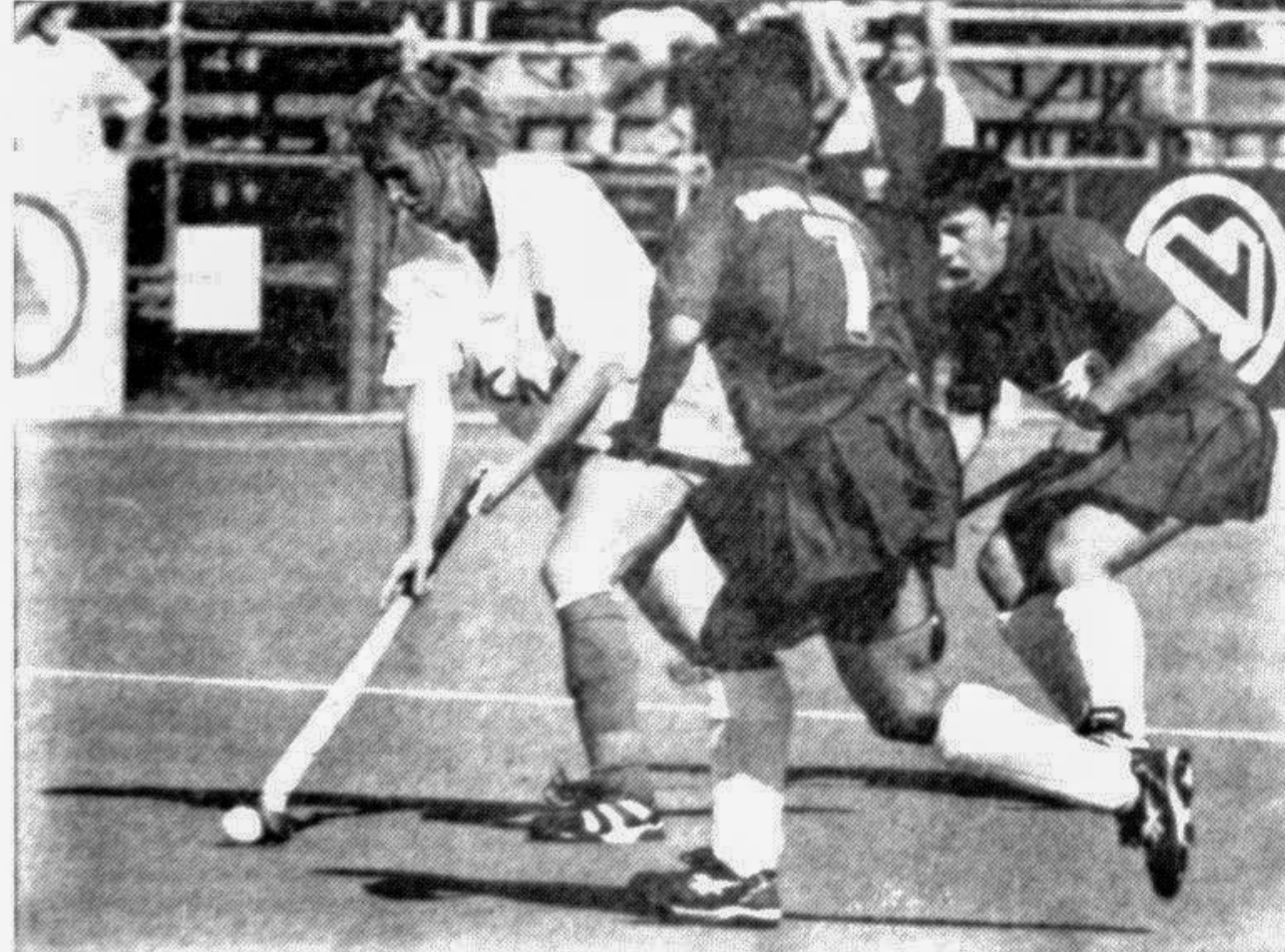
CALCUTTA, Nov 18: With the 1996 Wills World Cup barely a couple of months away, the members of India's 1983 World Cup triumph were honoured at a glittering function here last evening, reports PTI.

Ten out of the 14 members of that famous team were present at the function as they not only recounted some of memorable moments of that historic victory but also urged the members of the current Indian team to repeat the performance in the forthcoming World Cup.

The function was organised by the ITC Limited, the official sponsors of the 1996 World Cup, to mark the release of the special yearbook, which had been specially designed with information on the previous World Cups.

The members of the Indian cricket team, popularly called Kapil's devils, who were present in last evening's gathering included Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar, Mohinder Amarnath, Dilip Vengsarkar, Krishnamachari Srikanth, Balwinder Singh-sandhu, Yashpal Sharma, Syed Kirmani, Madan Lal Sharma and Sandeep Patil. The four who could not attend the function were Ravi Shastri, Sunil Walsan, Roger Binny and Kirti Azad.

This function has been organised to set the pace for the preparation of the Indian team for the Wills World Cup and also to provide the members of the current team a morale booster before the big event, a spokesman of the ITC Limited said.



Elen Kuipers (white top) from the Netherlands races past two South African defenders during an Olympic qualifying match played at Hartleyvale Stadium in Cape Town on Nov 17. The Dutch won 3-1.