

**NSW gain initiative**

NEWCASTLE, Australia, Dec 8: A maiden century by Richard Chee Quee helped New South Wales to a first innings lead over West Indies on the second day of a four-day tour match at the Newcastle Showground today, reports Reuter.

At the close of play, New South Wales were 266 for five and had built up a lead of 28 after the West Indies were bowled out for 238 on the first day.

Chee Quee scored his first century for New South Wales as part of an invaluable 189-run partnership with Michael Bevan. He scored 105 before being bowled by West Indies captain Courtney Walsh.

Walsh had earlier bowled Bevan for 86, with all five New South Wales batsmen dismissed by having their wickets broken. Walsh was the best of the West Indies' bowlers and finished with figures of three for 41 from his 21 overs.

He had earlier removed number four batsman Kevin Roberts to bring Chee Quee to the crease with the score at 65 for three.

Jimmy Adams and Roger Harper took the other two wickets, with Adams bowling rookie opener Corey Richardson for 29 and Harper claiming the other opener, Rodney Davison, for 11.

Chee Quee's innings included 13 fours as he rapidly outscored the more patient Bevan. His previous highest score had been 90 against England a three years ago.

Bevan's performance was also timely as he is trying to impress the Australian selectors before the World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in February.

West Indies had fallen prey to wrist-spinner David Freedman on the first day of play, with Freedman taking eight for 47. Seven of Freedman's wickets came in a stretch of 73 deliveries at the cost of only 12 runs.

**Atlanta airport's security to be beefed up**

ATLANTA, Dec 8: Atlanta's Hartsfield international airport, one of the world's busiest, is to get more than 1.2 million dollars in security improvements before the 1996 Summer Olympics, reports Reuter.

Plans to restrict flights near Olympic venues and install temporary, portable control towers at four suburban airports, were also announced by the Federal Aviation Administration on Wednesday.

"We can't have the free flow of airplanes over the Atlanta stadium if there are going to be 85,000 people there and the possibility of up to 150 or more heads of state," said FAA Olympics project manager Steve Alonga.

FAA administrator David Hinson said his agency is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency to anticipate security threats at the Olympics, which are expected to attract six million visitors.

"We have access to the full intelligence-gathering capabilities of the United States government and they are substantial," Hinson said.

He said the FAA will spend 100 million in Olympic-related activities, including a 1.2 million grant for security measures at the airport and 2.4 million for temporary air traffic services and personnel.

Hartsfield will get concrete barriers to prevent vehicles from crashing into airport grounds or the terminal building, bomb-detonating robots and plastic coating on terminal windows to minimize the effects of glass shattering.

The Olympic will also allow transport officials to test new methods of controlling low-altitude helicopter flights and assessing aircraft noise levels on the ground, officials said.

**Somerset sign Lee**

SYDNEY, Dec 8: Australian all rounder Shane Lee has signed a one-year contract to play with English county side Somerset next year, the player said today, reports Reuter.

Lee has scored three centuries in 21 first-class games for his state side, New South Wales, and has best bowling figures of four for 20.

He will replace leg spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, an outstanding performer in Pakistan's recent tour of Australia.

Mushtaq will be on representative duty in England next year and unavailable for county cricket.

**SL tail stages fightback**



PERTH, Dec 8: Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne moved within sight of a double century of Test wickets as Sri Lanka struggled to 251 all out on the first day of the first Test today, reports Reuter.

Warne overcame the handicap of several niggling injuries to claim three Sri Lankan wickets and lift his Test haul to 198 in only his 42nd appearance for his country.

Fast bowler Craig McDermott wrapped up the innings to balls before the scheduled close at the WACA ground by bowling tail-ender Kumara Dharmasena for 30 in the 90th over.

Sri Lanka, seeking to further enhance their reputation following a Test series win in Pakistan last September, elected to bat in ideal conditions after winning the toss.

The tourists batted positively and aggressively, unleashing a fine array of shots, but lost wickets at regular intervals to lose momentum whenever they appeared poised to dominate.

Warne, who broke a toe less than three weeks ago and took the field with a minor elbow strain, received fine support from McDermott and fast bowler Glenn McGrath.

The new-ball partners shared the remaining seven wickets to fall with McGrath finishing with figures of four for 81.

Warne made his most significant intervention when he removed wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana, Sri Lanka's top scorer, for 50 during the final session and finished

with three for 75 from 27 overs.

Warne, who took 19 wickets in Australia's recent 2-1 series win against Pakistan, also removed number four batsman Aravinda de Silva for 10 and fast bowler Chaminda Vaas for four.

McGrath made the early inroads by taking the early wickets of number three batsman Asanka Gurusinha for 46, captain Arjuna Ranatunga for 32 and opener Chandika Hathurusinghe on 14.

Gurusinha, playing his first



SHANE WARNE

innings since breaking his left thumb three weeks ago, produced an array of shots before dragging a ball on to his leg stump attempting a drive through the covers.

McDermott struck early to remove opener Roshan Mahanama for 15 and took three for 44 in the innings.

Australia made three changes from the side that lost the third and final Test against Pakistan on Monday, drafting in batsmen Stuart Law and Ricky Pointing, on their Test debuts and pace bowler Brendon Julian.

They replaced batsman Steve Waugh and pace bowler Paul Reffel after the pair were ruled out because of injury and all-rounder Greg Blewett who was dropped because of poor form.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first cricket Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at the WACA ground here today:

**SRI LANKA: First innings**

Mahanama c Warne b McDermott	15
Hathurusinghe c Law b McGrath	14
Gurusinha b McGrath	46
Aravinda de Silva c and b Warne	10
Arjuna Ranatunga c Healy b McGrath	32
Tillekaratne lbw McDermott	6
Kaluwitharana c Taylor b Warne	50
Dharmasena b McDermott	30
Vaas c Healy b Warne	4
Wickramasinghe c Julian b McGrath	28
Muralidharan not out	0
Extras (lb-9, b-4, nb-3)	16
Total	251

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-38, 3-54, 4-129, 5-132, 6-172, 7-193, 8-205, 9-251, 10-251.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
McDermott	18.4	5	44	3
McGrath	24	3	81	4
Julian	17	8	32	0
Warne	27	7	75	3
M Waugh	3	1	6	0

**Waiting for the wizard**



BRIDGETOWN, Dec 8: The West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) is delaying naming their World Cup squad in the hopes of convincing Brian Lara to play, reports AFP.

England for being absent without leave.

His withdrawal sent shock waves through the West Indian cricket community and it has become a hot political issue.

In a bid to find a way to break the impasse Lara met privately on Tuesday with

Pamela Nicholson, the new Minister of Sports in Trinidad and Tobago.

Next week the WICBC is to discuss the problem and president Peter Short has admitted he hopes to bring a 'happy ending' to the sorry saga.

"Clearly the responsibility lies with the WICBC. Brian Lara is too great a talent to let him go like that and we will find a way of bringing it together and coming out with dignity both for the WICBC and for Brian," said Short.

Meanwhile, the batsman has signed up to play in the 54-hole Barbados Open golf championship which begins Friday.

Lara, a keen 16 handicapper, won a celebrity golf championship here earlier this year when he teaming up with former world motor racing champion Nigel Mansell and British based race-horse owner Robert Saingster.



BRIAN LARA

**Bitter foes to break ice**



NEW DELHI, Dec 8: Pakistan's World Cup winning hockey team will visit India later this month in the first major sporting contact between the bitter rivals on each other's soil in six years, reports AFP.

The highly-rated hockey team is part of a 200-strong Pakistani contingent entered for the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games to be held in the southern Indian city of Madras from December 18-27.

K. Jyothikumaran, secretary of the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF), said Thursday that Pakistan had confirmed the participation of its national hockey squad at the biennial regional Games.

"They will be here in full force, and India too plans to field its best team," Jyothikumaran said. The India-Pakistan match will be the

highlight of the Games."

Pakistan last played a hockey international in India during the Asia Cup in New Delhi in November 1989. India returned the compliment by taking part in the World Cup in Lahore three months later.

Since then, India and Pakistan have faced each other in sports only away from home, as tension escalated between the two arch-rivals over the Kashmir issue.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting militant insurgency in Kashmir. Pakistan denies the charge, saying it lends only moral support to the Muslim separatist campaign in the troubled valley.

SAF Games officials are keeping their fingers crossed that the Pakistani contingent will not follow the example of their cricket team, which cancelled two scheduled tours to India in 1990 and 1991 at the last minute be-

cause of security considerations.

Pakistan is scheduled to take part in 12 of the 14 disciplines at the seven-nation games dropping out of judo and football.

Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives are the other countries taking part in the Games, which are expected to cost the host state government of Tamil Nadu more than 73.5 million dollars.

The SAF Games are being seen here as a test case for cricket's World Cup to be co-hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in February-March next year.

India and Pakistan, drawn in separate groups for the preliminary stage of the World Cup will play all their league matches at home. But they are committed to play on each other's grounds if they make the knock-out stage.



World number four Boris Becker of Germany makes a forehand return against Byron Black of Zimbabwe during their quarterfinal match at the Grand Slam Cup in Munich on Dec 7. Becker won the match 7-6, 6-1.

**Eyles given a fright**

BOMBAY, Dec 8: World number two and top seed Rodney Eyles of Australia was given a scare by young British player Martin Heath on the first day of the Mahindar international squash challenge on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Eyles needed all his guile against the Scot before winning 8-15, 15-11, 13-15, 15-12, 15-9.

"I admit I was pushed," Eyles said. "After losing the first and third games, I had to work very hard."

"Perhaps, it is good for me to have a tough match as an opener."

Heath has been on the professional circuit only 15 months but has already shot to number 30 in the rankings.

"I think I had a chance after taking two games," Heath said. "But then Rodney is known to produce his best in a difficult situation."

South African qualifier Craig van Der Wath stunned seventh seed Anthony Hill of Australia with his blistering pace and won 17-15, 15-2, 15-0.

**Rome to host Euro Cup final**

GENEVA, Dec 8: Rome has been chosen to stage the European Cup final on May 22 next year, a European Football Union (UEFA) source confirmed today, reports Reuter.

UEFA's club competitions committee also decided late on Thursday that Glasgow would be the venue for the Cup Winners' Cup final on May 8, he said.

The UEFA source, who requested anonymity, reluctantly confirmed Italian media reports about the venues.

"The decisions were apparently leaked to some reporters," he said. "There will be no official statement as the executive committee has still to approve them."

UEFA's executive committee is due to meet in Birmingham, England, on December 15.

The UEFA Cup final, played over two legs, is scheduled for May 1 and May 15.

**IOC to dispatch team to Sarajevo**

TOKYO, Dec 8: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) plans to send a team to Sarajevo in January in the hope it can get reconstruction of sports facilities there underway, IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch said Friday, reports AFP.

**Sampras lets Boris free**



MUNICH, Dec 8: Pete Sampras withdrew from the Grand Slam Cup with a knee injury on Thursday, dashing German fans' hopes of a 1.625 million showdown between the American world number one and their hero Boris Becker, reports Reuter.

Sampras who was forced to pull out ahead of his quarterfinal against Croat Goran Ivanisevic on Friday because of a knee injury, could have met Becker in Sunday's final.

But Sampras said he had not recovered from an injury he picked up while clinching the Davis Cup for the United States in Moscow last weekend. The US Open champion now needs treatment to get fit for next month's Australian

Open.

"Today I woke up and I could not stretch the knee," Sampras said. "I have just had a test and there is fluid behind the knee."

"I'll go home to try and rest and recover and do all I can to get fit. I didn't want the year to end like this."

Becker, who won the ATP Tour World Championship last month, now has a superb chance to pick up the most lucrative prize in the game.

Playing just 10 minutes drive from his luxury Munich home, the German had few problems reaching the semifinals on Thursday, in a 7-6, 6-1 victory over Zimbabwe's Byron Black.

Becker now faces American Todd Martin in Saturday's semifinals. Martin reached the last four after the Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev

retired hurt from their quarter final with the score at 6-3, 3-6, 4-0 in favour of the American.

There are no rankings points at stake in Munich. But the huge prize money still tempts many of the top players to brave the freezing Bavarian weather and extend the tournament season into December.

Despite his withdrawal Sampras will still take home a cheque of 762,500 from the richest tournament in the game. He could have pocketed 2.125 million dollars if he had won the event.

As a double Grand Slam winner in 1995, the American earned a bonus of 500,000 just for turning up following his Wimbledon and the US Open victories.



World number one American Pete Sampras leaves the court after winning his second round match against compatriot Patrick McEnroe at the Grand Slam Cup in Munich on Thursday.

**Paes indisposed**

NEW DELHI, Dec 8: India's number one tennis player Leander Paes is unlikely to play in Australian Open next month after coming down with malaria, his father said Thursday, reports AFP.

Vece Paes said his son contracted the disease during a visit to his home city of Calcutta last month to play in a local tournament. He fell sick again after reaching Orlando on November 27.

Blood tests in Florida revealed malaria, and Paes were ordered to take a complete break from the game till January. "Leander is feeling weak, and may not be fit enough to play the qualifying rounds of the Australian Open," Vece Paes said.

Paes, ranked 128 in the world, hopes to be fit for India's Davis Cup World Group tie against the Netherlands in Jaipur in February.

Paes led India into the World Group with an upset in over world number six Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia in the play-offs here in September. India won the tie 3-2, with Paes taking both his singles and the doubles.

**Tyson feels fit, focused**



PHILADELPHIA, Dec 8: It's a long way from a gym to a real fight, but Mike Tyson's right thumb — the one he broke last month — seems to be healed and ready for a real bout, or at least the one scheduled with Buster Mathis Jr. next week.

Tyson sparred five rounds on Wednesday and knocked down long-time sparring partner and friend Nate Tubbs with a left-right-left combination to the head at Joe Hand's Gym, reports Reuter.

After training, Tyson (42-1) held probably the longest news conference — about 20 minutes — since being released from prison last March.

Tyson, 29, said the thumb injury, which caused the postponement of his scheduled November 4 bout with the light-hitting Mathis in Las Vegas, said, "I'm just so conscious of (the thumb). That's why I try it so often to make sure it's okay."

Tyson, scheduled to fight Briton Frank Bruno in March for the World Boxing Council heavyweight title, appeared to be in good condition in his workout. He sparred four rounds with 6'7" (2.0 metres) journeyman Mike

Evans, who did not offer much opposition and then one round with Tubbs.

Tubbs, who has been a Tyson sparring partner for about seven years, said he thought Tyson's three years in prison on a rape conviction benefitted him in the ring.

"Mike is a lot stronger now than he was before," Tubbs (15-1) said. "He's a lot sharper. He doesn't tip off his shots anymore. In the past, I'd see some of those shots coming. The one he knocked me down today, I didn't see it coming."

Tubbs was asked what the 20-0 Mathis could expect in their scheduled 12-round bout, which will be broadcast on Free Home Television on the Fox network.

"Thirty seconds of pain," he said.

Indeed, there are some ringsiders who don't think the fight will last much longer, especially if Tyson is focused and Mathis, 25, hasn't learned to avoid left hands better than he had in a sparring session a couple of months ago.

Tyson was greeted at the gym on Wednesday with cheers from a crowd of about 100 people gathered in front of the gym.

Tyson had nothing but

praise for Philadelphia, which gave the fight a home after the Atlantic City Casino Control Commission rejected it, citing its banning of Tyson's promoter Don King from staging the fight because King is under indictment for insurance fraud.

"Philadelphia is very hospitable," Tyson told a huge gathering of reporters inside the gym, where the temperature was pushed to 92 Degrees because the former heavyweight champion likes to work in heat.

"All I've received is kindness. I'm not used to that. People in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, they take me for granted."

"But I knew if I didn't come back to the ring the only thing I would be doing is making people who think they're my enemies happy. What's the point?"

"Why would I give up 30 million dollars a week to make somebody happy. I should be doing what I was born to do. I've been doing this all my life."

"There are other things I can do, but there's never anything else I wanted to do," said Tyson, who won his first fight after leaving prison when he stopped a hapless Peter McNeeley in 89 seconds last August in Las Vegas.



Winners of the American Cup '95 golf at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.