

Sport

Column One SPORTS TALK

GMCC bring Biman down

BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH BIMAN: 104 in 49.2 overs (Rupom 53, Nasir Khan 42, Kamal Marchant 4/17, Mizanur Rahman 3/29).



GMCC: 165 for nine in 50 overs (Mizanur Rahman 62 not out, Kamal Marchant 49, Anis 6/29).

KALABAGAN KC: 161 in 49.1 overs (Shahid Sayeed 51, Arif 3/18, Saleh 2/32).

WARI CLUB: 80 in 24.3 overs (K Mapatuna 27, Saiful 3/18, Efee 2/9).

All-round performance by skipper Babul and Pakistani Kamal Marchant steered GMCC to an upset one-wicket win over title aspirants Bangladesh Biman in the Premier league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to Biman's total of 164, Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) were revived from a comatose condition by Pakistani veterans - middle order Kamal Marchant (49 off 107) and Rais Ahmed (20 in 70 balls), who joined in the eighth over with the side tottering at 6 runs for 5 wickets.

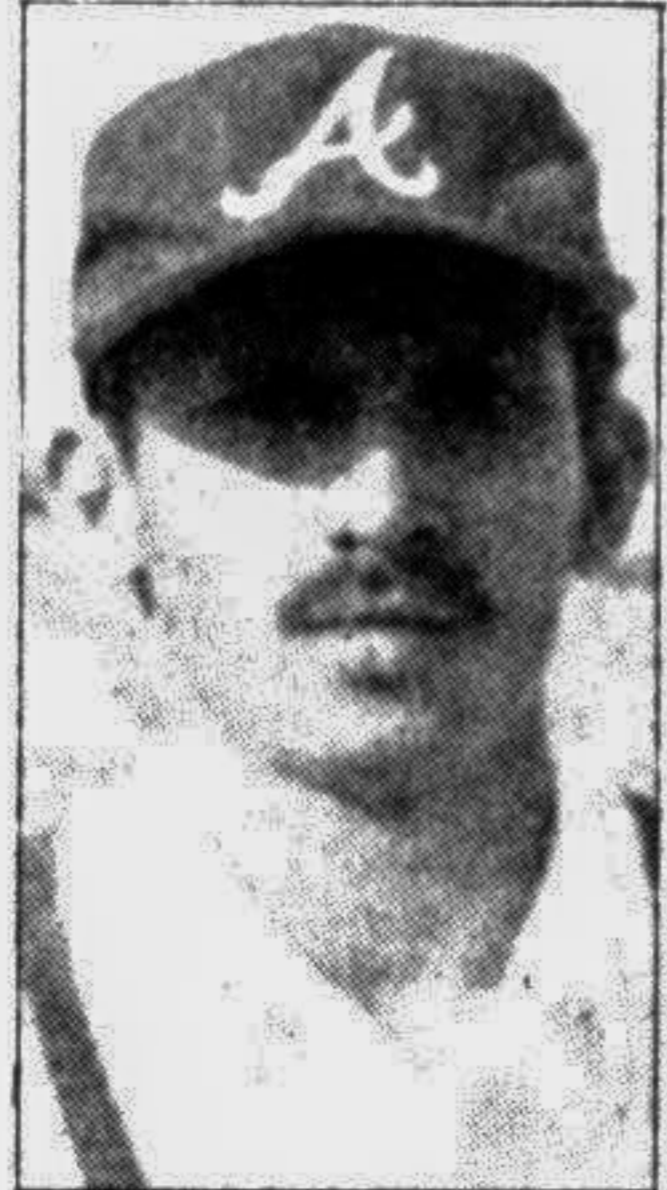
And later skipper Mizanur Rahman Babul's valiant unbeaten 62 in 68 balls that included four fours and a six were enough to ground Biman, the Victory Day cricket winners, as GMCC reached their target making 165 for 9 utilising the last ball of the final 50th over.

Babul teamed up with Marchant after the departure of Rais Ahmed with GMCC on 52/6 in 27.4 overs. They hammered 63 runs in 17 overs to raise the total to 115 before Marchant became the victim of a run out in the 44.4 overs.

The GMCC skipper collected another valuable 33 runs along with wicketkeeper Debashish Barua and Moshad Alam in the next four overs. They plundered 9 and 6 runs from seamer Anis in the 47th and 49th overs while 10 and 8 runs from Pakistani spinner Muhtasin Rashid in the 46th and 48th

overs. Biman skipper Ziaur Rashid Rupom went after Nazimuddin Manna in the last over when GMCC needed 14 runs to win the match. But a well-set Babul cashed in on his maturity against Manna's inexperience to collect 7 runs (4, 2, 1) in the first three deliveries. The other batsman, Monjurul Alam took a couple and a single in the 4th and 5th deliveries before returning the strike to his skipper.

Off the final delivery, Babul guided Manna's lifter to the third man boundary over



ANIS... 6 for 29 wicketkeeper Tomal and raised the bat in victory.

Earlier, in the penultimate delivery, wicketkeeper Tomal could have turned the tables on GMCC but he dropped Monjurul Alam much to the despair of Biman tent.

Biman's national pacer Anis took 6 for 29, one of his best achievements, but wasted away. He paralysed GMCC (6 for 5) taking five wickets in consecutive two overs.

The left-handed seamer claimed opener Sadek Amin Ujjal (2), one down Alamgir Kabir (0) and middle order Fayaz Ferdous (0) in the fifth over, and another opener Golla (1) and burly middle order Zakaria Imtiaz (0) in his next over.

Earlier, Bangladesh Biman were all out for 164 in 49.2 overs as off-cutting Kamal Merchant claimed 4/17 and opening bowler Babul 3/29.

The main contributors of the Biman innings were skipper Rupom (53 off 86 balls) and Pakistani opener Nasir Khan (42 off 77 balls).

Middle order Shahnewaz Shahid Shanu (14 off 32 balls) failed to prove himself in the absence of veteran Athar Ali Khan who has been nursing a knee injury.

BAGAN BIG WIN Title contender Kalabagan KC beat in-form Wari Club by a massive 81 runs in a low scoring match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium today (Saturday).

Electing to bat first, Kalabagan were all out for 161 in 49.1 overs with four batsmen reaching double digit.

After an embarrassing start that saw Kalabagan scoring only 44 runs for 4 wickets in 19 overs, highest scorer Pakistani Shahid Sayeed (51 off 73 ball) put up a resistance against the odd along with middle order Mahburur Rahman (19 of 43 runs) before he was run out.

Later, wicketkeeper Atiar Rahman (11 off 18 balls) and tailenders Pakistani Amin Abbas (15 off 19 balls) and seamer Zakir Hasan (16 off 14 ball) gave Kalabagan a lease of life.

National new ball bowler Saiful Islam along with two other pacers, Zakir Hasan and Amin Abbas, shared 6 wickets to bundle out high flyer Wari Club at 80 in 34.3 overs.

Opening bowler Zakir Hasan claimed two top orders, Hasanuzzaman (13) and Abayduhah (6), for 21 runs. Abbas took Wari opener Moniruzzaman (0) for 15 runs while Saiful claimed the prize wicket of Lankan Karman Mapatuna (27), skipper Mukul (3) and Mofizur Rahman (1) for 18 runs.

Saidul Islam Efee took two tailenders for 9 runs to cut the Wari tail.

Wari conceded their maiden defeat after winning the first two matches while it was the third consecutive win for Kalabagan.

An act of bravery!

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 30: England captain Michael Atherton was congratulated for breaking a chair in the England dressing room and will face no disciplinary action for doing so, a top executive said on Friday, reports Reuter.

The chief executive of the eastern province cricket union, David Emslie, said it was a considerable achievement for Atherton to smash the chair after he was controversially given out during the fourth Test on Thursday.

"People don't realise how much strength is required to break one of those chairs. It was a rare feat... that's why we put indestructible plastic chairs in the changing rooms. Most batsmen like to hit something when they're out," Emslie said.

"Seriously, the idea of us taking any action is ridiculous. The chairs cost next to nothing and we have about 500 spares on the ground anyway. I've spoken to (match referee) Clive Lloyd and he feels the same way. What happens in the dressing room should stay there."

Sarfraz serves a salvo

ISLAMABAD, Dec 30: Former Pakistan cricket star Imran Khan was accused of playing politics behind a facade of charity in the first official reaction Thursday to his bitter attack on the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, reports AFP.

The accusation was made by Sarfraz Nawaz, a former Test cricketer, currently adviser on sports to the government, a day after Khan blamed the government for attempting to "destroy" a cancer hospital founded by him with donations.

"It is not the government which is damaging the cause of a charity organisation, but instead, it is Imran himself, who has drifted away from his earlier declared goal and rather prefers to indulge in politics," Nawaz said in a statement.

The adviser said Khan "cannot claim to be running a pure welfare venture," adding that he "is only forwarding his politics in the garb of charity, which is highly abhorrent by any standards."

Khan has alleged his hospital advertisements have been denied airtime on state-run television and there has been pressure from the tax authorities, describing the government as the "greatest obstacle" to the hospital.

He retired from cricket after Pakistan World Cup victory under his captaincy in 1992, devoting himself to humanitarian work and his dream of building a cancer hospital.

The Shaaukat Khanum memorial hospital, named after his mother who died of cancer, is functioning in Lahore. He lives there with his European wife, Jemima, daughter of Anglo-French financier Sir James Goldsmith.

The adviser said the government had given "maximum permissible" concessions to the hospital, including the import of a tax-free camera worth two million dollars, besides arranging for free tickets on Pakistan International Airlines.

"In fact for having allowed continued tax concessions worth billions of rupees Imran had written a letter of thanks to the government," he said.

As for TV publicity, Nawaz said that an advertisement with "political content or overtones" could not be entertained under television rules.

The former cricket captain has not so far publicly expressed his intention to enter politics, though his supporters have frequently urged him to take the plunge.

V-Day body building

Badiul Alam Swapan of Dhaka Gold's Gym won in the 80kg category of the recently held Victory Day body building competitions held at the National Sports Complex, says a press release.

4th Test yeilds 4th draw



PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 30: The fourth Test between England and South Africa ended in a draw at St George's Park today, reports Reuter.

Earlier at tea, England lost just one wicket in the afternoon session on the final day reaching 134 for one.

The match appeared to be heading for the fourth draw of the series, with England still needing 194 for victory

with the variations sent down by 18-year-old left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams.

But Stewart used the edge of his bat almost as much as the middle and eventually forced fast bowler Allan Donald to drop to his knees in despair as another inside edge flew narrowly past leg stump.

Stewart, sensing his good fortune, grinned at Donald, helped him to his feet and even appeared to apologise to South Africa's Main threat before resuming his stance.

South Africa, boasting a 165-run first innings lead, slumped to 69 for six in their second innings before Kirsten and all-rounder Shaun Pollock got the measure of a depleted England attack.

They re-built the innings with a stand of 66, allowing Hansie Cronje to declare at 162 for nine.

Kirsten's 167-ball innings spanning 288 minutes was invaluable as his teammates carelessly tossed away their wickets to an attack missing Mark Ilett, who had a thigh strain.

All-rounder Dominic Cork set South Africa back on their heels by ripping out the middle order in 17 balls once Peter Martin had removed opener Andrew Hudson and Cronje with perfect away swingers to leave the home side on 34 for two at lunch.

Left-arm spinner Richard Illingworth had Daryll Cullinan stumped soon after the interval with the aid of the speedy Jack Russell and a hairline television decision from third umpire Rudi Koertzen.

Cork then trapped Jonty Rhodes lbw for nought, forced Brian McMillan to glove an attempted hook to Graeme Hick at leg slip and provided Russell with his fourth dismissal of the innings with an outside edge off Dave Richardson.

The South Africans were just 234 runs ahead with the tail exposed. But Kirsten and Pollock dug their side out of a hole.

Cork and Martin endeavoured to make run-scoring difficult by consistently bowling down the legside.

Umpire Cyril Mitchley became so irritated by the tactics that he spoke twice to Atherton and once to Cork before signalling a Cork ball as a wide, although the particular delivery was only midway between the stumps and the return crease.

Atherton immediately walked up to Mitchley to demand an explanation. Illingworth eventually broke the stand when Pollock holed out to Cork at mid-wicket and he added the wicket of Craig Matthews soon after, caught and bowled for five.

Cork later denied that the legside tactics had been negative. "We used the same ploy against the West Indies and got Brian Lara out like that, put a leg slip in and see if we can give him a catch, or even Jack (Russell)."

"Make them work hard for their runs. It was a plan."

Cork said that umpire Mitchley had spoken to both Atherton and himself about bowling down the legside.



England batsman Peter Martin fails to make any contact as the ball sneaks through his bat and pad to strike the stumps during the morning session of the fourth day of the fourth Test against South Africa in Port Elizabeth on Dec 29. The Test ended in a draw.

and only 31 overs remaining. Mike Atherton and Alec Stewart continued their opening partnership for eight minutes short of three hours, before Atherton perished to a ball from seamer Craig Matthews that kept unusually low.

The England captain departed lbw for a stubborn 34 from 135 deliveries with three boundaries. But vice-captain Stewart continued to ride his luck and was unbeaten on 67.

Jason Gallian, with 14 not out, grew in confidence as it became obvious that the wicket was not misbehaving as much as had been predicted by locals.

Having recently arrived from Pakistan, the Lancashire batsman had no difficulty in dealing with a low, slow track and also coped admirably

On Friday England opened a long second innings chase from 327 runs behind, with captain Mike Atherton and Alec Stewart closing the fourth day of the Test facing a furious South African attack.

If England gain a victory Saturday, the result will be the ninth-highest chase ever achieved - but the safe betting remains on a South African victory or, more likely, a fourth draw in the rain-plagued Test series.

Atherton (9) and Stewart (8) faced two maidens in the three overs from left-wrist spinning sensation Paul Adams, making his Test debut, in the final-nine bowled before play ended.

Opener Gary Kirsten spared South Africa's blushes with a gutsy 69 after his side had relaxed their stranglehold.

Shahbaz slams the FIH



MADRAS, Dec 30: Pakistani hockey captain, Shahbaz Ahmed was sceptical about the future of Asian hockey which has, according to him, suffered a jolt due to the 'unfavourable approach' of the Federation Internationale de Hockey (FIH), the world body for the game, reports PTI.

Shahbaz, the only Pakistani in recent times to have played for the country for a decade at the international level and having the distinction of winning both the Champions' Trophy and the World Cup, did not hide his feelings on the functioning of the FIH. It had proved to be detrimental to the development of the game, especially in the Asian region, he said.

According to this sporting ambassador of Pakistan, the FIH had 'killed' Asian hockey by introducing rules that helped the Europeans.

On the role of Brig. Atif of Pakistan, who is the rules commission chairman of the FIH, Shahbaz said, "He should favour the Asian type of hockey and protest the game from being extinguished. The rule changes compiled are going to finish Asian hockey," he said before leaving Madras for Pakistan.

Shahbaz, who has perhaps not yet recovered from the thrashing by India in the finals of the South Asian Federation Games here, reluctantly agreed to talk to PTI at the game's village yesterday.

Shahbaz felt the recent changes in the rules had so far helped European teams and the fact that Asian teams,

especially Pakistan, were able to counter their superior play was 'because of the talented players that we have in the region.'

He was critical of a rule, likely to be introduced after the Atlanta Olympics that a goal could be scored from the 25-yard line. It was reported four months ago that countries like England, Holland, Australia and Germany favoured this rule.

On this, Shahbaz said, "The European countries have been favoured in this manner even in the past. Such rules are going to finish hockey. The rule would make hockey look like soccer. A better way to amend rules would be to invite at least five top players in the world to the committee meeting."

"It was those who had played the game 20 years back who were deciding these changes and they did

Barisal cricket

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Dec 30: The inter district cricket tourney got under way at the Barisal Stadium today. Barisal Division Commissioner MA Rashid inaugurated the meet.

In the opening match, Barisal district defeated Pirojpur district by eight wickets.

In tomorrow's game Borguna will take on Pirojpur.

Navy tennis

CHITTAGONG, Dec 30: The annual tennis and squash championship of the Bangladesh Navy concluded at BNS Issa Khan Sports Complex here on Thursday, an ISPR press release said today, reports BSS.

not care for any suggestion. Senior players from the present lot can voice the feelings of all if a committee for players is there like in tennis," he said.

Talking on professionalism, Shahbaz said some Pakistani players had played in Spain and he himself had briefly helped a Bangladesh club. "I got a handsome amount for just 10 days". He said, adding the Pakistan federation did not support players going abroad. He too had initially not been allowed.

Only professionalism could make hockey a more popular and glamorous sport and the players too could get richer, according to Shahbaz. He said the Pakistan federation was steered in politics and they develop the game at the grassroots level.

On the role of foreign coaches, Shahbaz said, "India, like Pakistan, lacked enough funds to meet the hefty sums demanded by a foreign coach. Pakistan has talented boys and a few of them had played for the country without even competing in the national league," he said.

He reiterated that they could not easily adjust with the foreign coaches as their lifestyles differed. In the Sydney World Cup, the Holland coach of Pakistan did not care to sit in the bench along with our boys.

"Instead, he went to take clinics, where he had claimed that he was instrumental for our high standard and that we had lost because he was not there. But the fact was, we went on to win the title."

Richie Richardson

(West Indies skipper) "We've got to focus on playing cricket here in Australia and win the World Series Cup."

(On being asked about his message to his fellow compatriots.)

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT there have been many players in the world who after having gone through extreme poverty during their childhood, reached the pinnacle of success and fame. The legendary Paavo Nurmi of Finland was one such athlete and he won nine Olympic gold and three silvers between 1920 and 1928.

Nurmi ran away from his peasant home at 13 in search of livelihood. He started plying carts. His legs became sturdy. While peddling his cart one day, Nurmi ran so fast that he felt as if he was flying in the air. This encouraged him to run in his spare time. He soon became the National Champion in the medium range races. At the age of 23 he was an Olympic gold medalist.

Nurmi's story is one of a happy ending. But, there are many athletes who, after retirement, suffer poverty. Having entertained millions, these players are ignored and lead a dejected life at old age. A cruel irony of fate.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN (The rules are published every Saturday)

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-20

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Jan 5, 1996)

1. Who was the captain of the Bangladesh hockey team in the 7th SAF Games?

Alamgir Maman Haroon

2. How many teams are scheduled to participate in the soccer World Cup '97?

24 28 32

3. Penally-corner is a term usually associated with

Hockey Football Handball

4. Boca.....?

Seniors Juniors Childrens

5. The governing body for international athletics is called

IAAF IAAF AFA

Name.....

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address.....

Phone: (if any).....

Jansher reigns

LONDON, Dec 30: Jansher Khan's grip on world squash show no sign of weakening, reports Reuter.

With seven Super Series victories and another World Open title, the Pakistani finished the year with almost double the number of ranking points of his nearest rival, Australian Rodney Eyles.

Player Points

1. Jansher Khan (Pakistan) 1,365

2. Rodney Eyles (Australia) 688

3. Brett Martin (Australia) 568

4. Peter Nicol (Scotland) 528

5. Simon Parke (England) 462

6. Del Harris (England) 432

7. Chris Walker (England) 373

8. Anthony Hill (Australia) 332

9. Mark Chaloner (England) 271

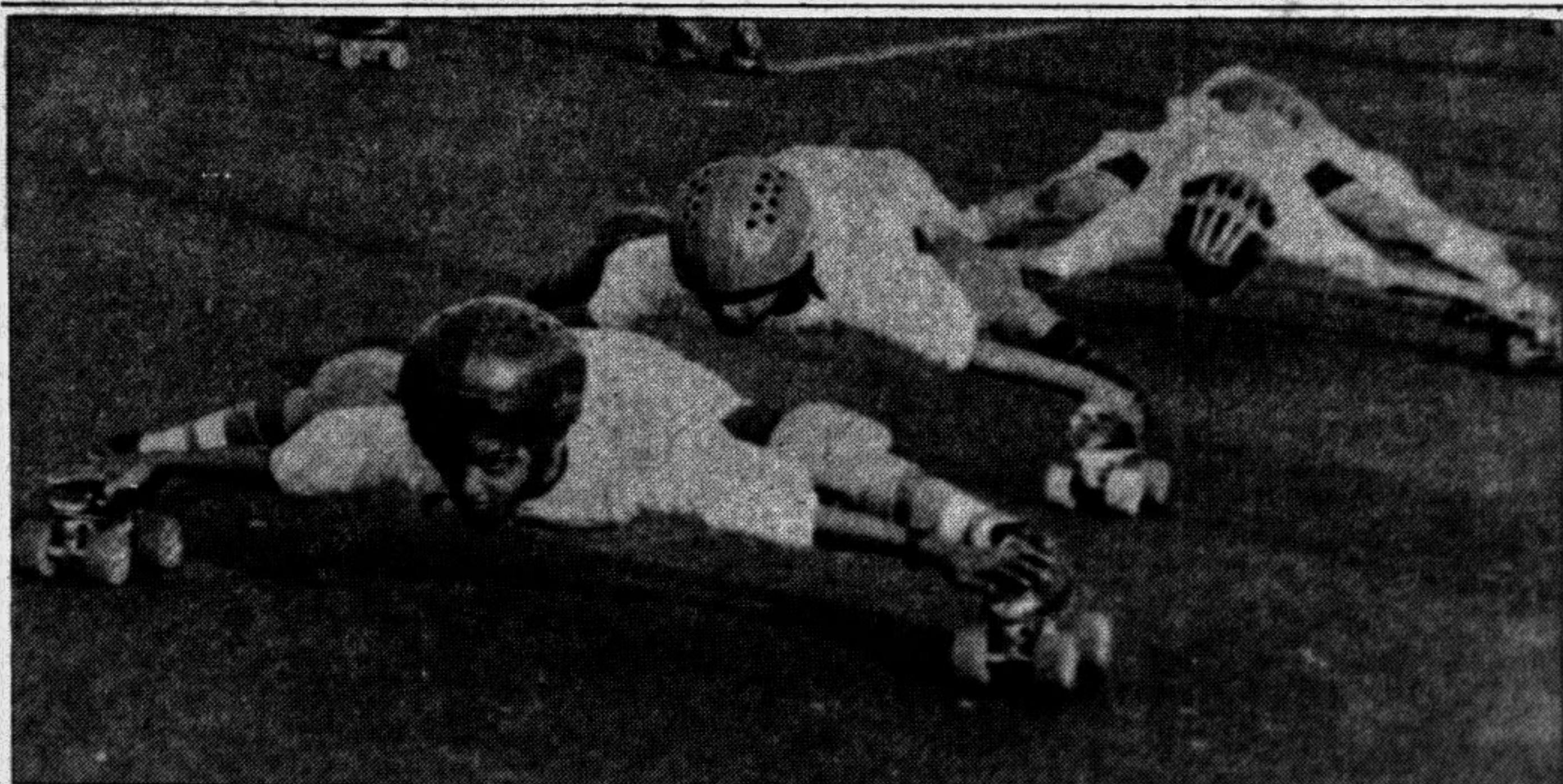
10. Mark Cairns (England) 263

Staunton sidelined

BIRMINGHAM, Dec 30: Aston Villa's international defender Steve Staunton suffered a further setback on Thursday when he was told that he is facing another six weeks on the sidelines, reports AFP.

The Republic of Ireland defender, who has been restricted to just three starts for Villa this season, had been expected back early in the New Year after a recurrence of a hamstring injury last week.

But Villa manager Brian Little fears the injury is worse than the hamstring problem that has kept defender Carl Tiller out of action for nearly seven weeks.



On the occasion of the Tourism Month a rolling skating competition was held in the city yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for ACROSS and DOWN. Includes a CRYPTOQUIP section at the bottom right.

Star photo