

Column One

SPORTS TALK



HOBART, Jan 3: West Indies finally broke their World Series limited overs drought with a 70-run victory against Sri Lanka today as spinner Muttiah Muralitharan survived an examination of his controversial bowling technique, reports Reuter.

Richie Richardson's side recorded their first win in five matches since the World Series began last month after dismissing Sri Lanka for 124 in 37.4 overs.

Muralitharan, playing his first game since being noballed seven times for throwing during last month's second Test against Australia, claimed two wickets for 46 as West Indies scored 194 in 48.2 overs after being sent in bat.

Australian umpires Terry Prue and Steve Davis took no action against the 23-year-old off-spinner during his ten-over spell at Bellerive Oval.

The tourists are now equal on two points from one win each in the competition, although West Indies have played five matches in the series and Sri Lanka three.

Both teams are well behind leaders Australia, undefeated on a maximum eight points from four matches.

The West Indies had hinted at a return to form during Monday night's match against Australia when they were defeated on the last ball.

That promise appeared short-lived early in the West Indies' innings as opener Phil Simmons was dismissed for a duck.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul steamed the innings with a brave 77, before the West Indies lost their last seven wickets for 33 runs.

Tight bowling and smart fielding enabled West Indies to keep Sri Lanka in check.

West Indies fast bowler Ottis Gibson finished with five wickets for 42 from 8.4 overs while two run outs contributed to Sri Lanka's downfall.

Anuradha Gurusinha, a century-maker in the second Test against Australia, top-scored for Sri Lanka with 48.

Richardson said the narrow defeat by Australia and

the win over Sri Lanka showed his side were improving after a disastrous start to their Australian tour that saw them lose five and draw two of their first seven matches.

"We realised that we are playing better," Richardson said.

"We went into this match with a very positive attitude. Even though we didn't get enough runs, we were determined to bowl them out."

Richardson was again troubled by a hamstring injury which kept him out of Monday's match against Australia and said he was unsure whether he would play in the next World Series game, also

at Bellerive Oval today.

Scoreboard in the one-day World Series Cup match between the West Indies and Sri Lanka at the Bellerive Oval today:

WEST INDIES

Simmons c Kaluwitharana b Vaas	0
Campbell c Kaluwitharana b Hathurusinghe	38
Chanderpaul c Vaas b Muralitharan	77
Richardson c Gurushinha	18
b Dharmasena	36
Hooper c De Silva b Vaas	1
Harper b Muralitharan	6
Gibson c De Silva b Hathurusinghe	4
Browne not out	10
Bishop run out	3
Ambrose c Tilakaratne b Vaas	0
Walsh b Munasinghe	1
Extras: (B-3, w-7)	10
Total: (all out, 48.2 overs)	194
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-63; 3-125; 4-161; 5-168; 6-179; 7-187; 8-193; 9-193.	

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
Vaas	9	2	21
Munasinghe	8.2	1	21
Hathurusinghe	10	1	50
Gurushinha	3	0	14
Muralitharan	10	0	46
Dharmasena	6	0	30
Jayasuriya	2	0	9

SRI LANKA

Mahanama c Campbell b Gibson	10
Jayasuriya c Ambrose b Walsh	3
Gurushinha run out	48
De Silva c Campbell b Gibson	5
Tilakaratne c Brown b Gibson	8
Kaluwitharana run out	8
Hathurusinghe c Richardson b Bishop	3
Dharmasena c Brown b Gibson	12
Vaas c Campbell b Harper	10
Munasinghe c Simmons b Gibson	2
Muralitharan not out	2
Extras: (B-2, w-5, nb-10)	17
Total: (all out, 37.4 overs)	124

Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-39; 3-47; 4-74; 5-89; 6-94; 7-100; 8-121; 9-121.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
Ambrose	6	0	13
Walsh	8	1	22
Bishop	8	1	28
Gibson	8.4	0	42
Harper	7	0	17

Result: West Indies won by 70 runs.

STANDINGS

Standings in the World Series Cup (WSC) one-day cricket competition after today's match here (games played, won, lost, points):			
Australia	4	4	8
West Indies	5	1	4
Sri Lanka	3	1	2

CHANDERPAUL ... m-o-m against Sri Lanka, in Brisbane on Friday.

"It could get worse and I really wouldn't like it to get worse," Richardson said.

"We've got a lot of cricket ahead of us, so I've just got to get as much rest and as much treatment as possible."

The slightly-built Chanderpaul batted with a runner for the last seven overs of his innings after suffering cramps because the straps on his batting pads were too tight.

"Chanderpaul was too small for the pads, that's why he had to do the straps up so tight," Richardson said.

Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga, who injured a finger during the second Test against Australia, topped the scoring for Sri Lanka with 48.

Richardson said the narrow defeat by Australia and

turned to capture the Canadian Open and reach the final of the US Open, where she lost to Steffi Graf.

"I think I played some great tennis," Seles said of her two tournament 1995 campaigns that was cut short because of injuries.

Asked to rate her performances, she said, "Canada definitely was a huge surprise because I didn't play for such a long time."

"The US Open, I think I played very well. The only thing after the Open was a little bit unhappy with was how I reacted in the final. I should have been more experienced, but I think that was from not playing some matches."

Now 22, Seles won the year's first Grand Slam tournament three consecutive years (1991-93). She is currently riding a 21-0 streak in the Australian Open.

"But after being stabbed by an obsessed fan during a tournament in Germany in 1993, Seles, then the world's No. 1 player, didn't play again until last August. She re-

turned to capture the Canadian Open and reach the final of the US Open, where she lost to Steffi Graf.

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Her knee injury forced her to pull out of several events, including her debut with the US Fed Cup team in its final against victorious Spain and the season ending WTA tour Championships, a 16-player event. Seles won from 1990-92.

"It was frustrating because I had a great Open and I was looking forward to playing in the Championships."

DOHA, Jan 3: Boris Becker ended Stefan Edberg's hopes of a winning start to his final year on tour, beating the Swede 6-2, 7-5 at the Qatari Open on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The German second seed joined top seed Thomas Muster in the second round after the Austrian French Open champion beat Spain's Javier Sanchez 6-2, 7-6.

Becker reached to a 3-0 lead in the first set with two breaks, before fellow former Wimbledon champion Edberg broke back into 1-3. Becker came back in the seventh game and then held serve to win the first set in 33 minutes.

The second set went with serve until Becker got the final break in the 11th game and then served out the match.

Stefan has always been my toughest opponent, we have had major matches and we have a lot of respect for each other on court, Becker said.

Becker said that when the time came for him to quit, he would do so almost immediately and not play another year.

"I wouldn't announce it and then play for another year. When my time comes, I will quit very quickly," Becker said.

Edberg announced his retirement last month but will keep playing until the end of 1996.

The Prince of Wales (L) and a partner prepare to ski at the Swiss Alpine skiing resort of Klosters on Jan 2.

Team manager Duleep Mendis said it was unlikely either would be able to play in Friday's game.

SCOREBOARD

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