

Column One
SPORTS TALK



David Gower
(Former England batsman)
"You've obviously got to take the profession seriously enough to work on it and you do care — but you've got to say to some degree: 'OK, fine it's a game of cricket, I'm human, I'll do it tomorrow.' You've got to be able to relax."

DID U' KNOW?
(The Professor does)

THAT more than one person has visited his country of origin as representative of his adopted country. But, what happened to the captain of the touring Canadian cricket team in England in 1880 is not actually normal. It so happened that he was arrested during a match. Imagine the nerve of the bobby!

On investigation it was revealed that the upstanding captain was a British Army deserter. Justice prevailed and the captain had to play not so much of a captain's knock by serving three hundred days in prison.

Moral: Don't jump into marrying the first phorene- turnee. Check his/her past; captain or no captain.

Sports
WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN
The rules are published every Saturday

Sports WHIZZ KID
competition-21
Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Jan 12, 1996)

1. Which country has won the greatest number of Olympic medals?	USA	USSR	Germany
2. What is the maximum break in snooker?	125	136	147
3. In international gymnastics, how many events are there in men's contests?	Six	Eight	Ten
4. How long is a marathon?	51.33km	40.21km	42.95km
5. A super-heavyweight boxer must weigh more than	91kg	101kg	105kg

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

Sampras may miss Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Jan 8: World no 1 Pete Sampras is in doubt to play in the Australian Open tennis here next week as he battles a virus, reports AFP.

Sampras today withdrew from the leadup Kooyong Classic tournament, starting here Wednesday, after organisers said that he had been advised not to travel while he recovers from the setback.

"Pete is not feeling too well and is very ill with the virus," said a Kooyong Classic tournament spokeswoman here today. "He has been advised not to travel to Australia while he is ill."

With the year's opening Grand Slam getting underway at Flinders Park today, it does not allow Sampras much time to make the long flight and get in the necessary practice to be ready for the tournament.

"The International Management Group (IMG) spoke to Pete's manager, Fef Schwaz, in the United States today and he told them that Pete was bitterly disappointed at missing out playing in our tournament," said the spokeswoman.

"He wanted the preparation to be ready for the Australian Open."

Sampras was runner up to Andre Agassi at the Australian Open last January, but finished the year winning Wimbledon and the US Open, making seven career Grand Slam titles.

Kooyong Classic organisers hope to announce Sampras replace in the eight man draw later today, but the spokeswoman ruled out Boris Becker stepping in at the last minute.

SA harbour another hope



CAPE TOWN, Jan 8: South Africa go into the first game of their seven-match limited overs series against England here Tuesday with only one thought in mind, reports AFP.

"We have a score to settle," is the way Peter Pollock, head of the South African selection panel, puts it.

"We have lost four on the trot to them (England), and that's something we want to change," he said, referring to the one-day internationals played in England last summer and to the 1992 World Cup in Australia.

Pollock is backing that thinking with some change in the normal approach to South African team.

The selection shows flexibility and includes the proven talents of Allan Donald with the new ball on the one hand



MIKE ATHERTON
and teenage spin sensation Paul Adams on the other.

Psychologically, England are at a nadir, having lost the Test series and suffering a humiliating three-wicket defeat at the hands of an under-strength Western Province side.

While South Africa have kept faith in the 13-man squad that won the final Test against Mike Atherton's tourists in three days, securing a 1-0 series victory, England have brought in their one-day specialists.

Dermot Reeve, Neil Fair-

brother, Craig White, Neil Smith and Phillip DeFreitas have all been called up for the limited overs series.

DeFreitas could prove particularly valuable for the opening encounter.

He has been playing for Boland, the local union a 20-minute drive away from the historic ground of Newlands which opens the series, and has had a good look at most of the South Africans.

South Africa have drafted in Transvaal's Richard Snell and Natal off spinner Pat Symcox but have not risked the fitness of Fanie de Villiers.

De Villiers, so often a match-winner for South Africa since the country's readmittance in 1992, has been left out of the squad for the first four internationals.

It means that he will not play in the fourth meeting on his home turf at Centurion Park outside Pretoria.

And although the selectors meet again to re-evaluate the squad before the fifth international at Kingsmead in Durban, there now seems little likelihood of him playing against the English tourists.

Pollock and selectors regard then both as all-rounders and, while there is a more than adequate case for Snell to make his claim, Symcox is regarded more as a defensive bowler than a batsman of note.

But in promoting his all-rounding theory, Pollock has made the intentions of the South Africans under Hansie Cronje's captaincy crystal clear.

"We are in a position to field up to nine batsmen and seven bowlers at the same time," Pollock said.

In this regard the whirlwind batting of Snell will certainly be used to advantage high in the order, as will the talents of Brian McMillan.

The selectors are also pinning their hopes on a return to form by Andrew Hudson and Cronje.

Both had at best a mediocre Test series, Hudson averaging 20.67 with a highest score of 45 and his captain a disappointing 18.83.

England, too have had

their problems among the much vaunted batting line-up.

Graham Thorpe under-achieved in the Test series — although he was on the wrong end of a couple of dubious decisions — with an average of 26.29.

And Mark Ramprakash batted so poorly that his average reads a paltry 4.33 and he was dropped after only two Tests.

The upcoming series has been shoehorned into 13 days of criss-crossing the country and also including internationals in Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban and East London, culminating with the final match at St. George's Park in Port Elizabeth on January 21.

TEAMS
SOUTH AFRICA: Andrew Hudson, Gary Kirsten, Hansie Cronje (captain), Daryll Cull-



HANSIE CRONJE
nan, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, Jacques Kallis, Dave Richardson, Craig Matthews, Shaun Pollock, Nicky Boje, Richard Snell, Pat Symcox, Allan Donald, Paul Adams.

ENGLAND: Mike Atherton (captain), Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Graeme Hick, Mark Ramprakash, Robin Smith, Neil Fairbrother, Craig White, Dermot Reeve, Neil Smith, Jack Russell, Mike Watkinson, Richard Illingworth, Phillip DeFreitas, Dominic Cork, Darren Gough, Peter Martin.

Martin looks fighting fit

SYDNEY, Jan 8: American Todd Martin, playing his first match since losing to Goran Ivanisevic in the Grand Slam Cup final, eased into the second round of the Peters International tennis tournament Monday with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Germany's Martin Sinner, reports AP.

Martin took just 65 minutes to advance, while in a contrasting first-round women's contest, Belgium's Sabine Appelmans failed to last the distance in a marathon battle with Mariaan De Swardt of South Africa.

Appelmans was forced to default with dehydration and cramps after 2 hours and 28 minutes in the fierce Sydney sunshine at White City, giving De Swardt a 6-7 (2-7), 7-6 (7-5), 6-5 victory.

In the first major upset, Australia's Richard Fromberg outscored third seed Arnaud Boetsch of France, winning

4-6, 6-3, 6-3. Sending down 10 aces, Fromberg placed 76 per cent of his first serves into play to keep Boetsch under pressure.

Fifth-seeded Martin dropped just three points on serve in the first set, and although Sinner asserted himself more in the second set, the American was never in difficulty. Sinner's backhand errors and several double faults proved costly against a steadier opponent.

"That was just what the doctor ordered," said Martin, who recently shaved off all his hair in a bet with a friend.

"I didn't know what to expect but I started off well and made good returns. He started to force a little bit and missed, and that just aided my cause."

Martin managed to grab just eight days' vacation after competing in Munich in December, during which he played golf at home in Florida and then travelled to see his family in Michigan before

beginning preparations for his Australian tour.

With such a short break, Martin considered there should be a later start to the Australian Open.

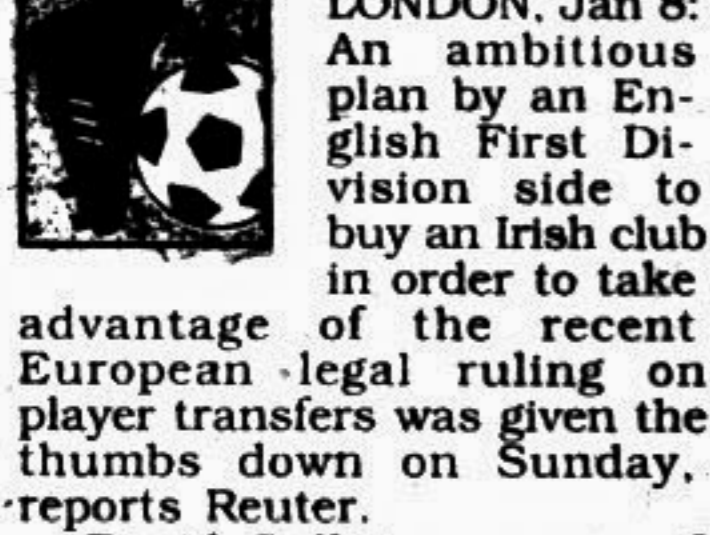
"I don't think we should have to play into December, and if the Australian (Open) could manage it I don't think we should have to leave just a day or two after the holidays."

"It's very difficult to pack your bags the day after Christmas, not just for the players but their families."

Fourth seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland was forced to withdraw after breaking a bone in his right hand during the final of the Hopman Cup on Saturday. Rosset caused the injury when he hit a court-side sign.

Petr Korda, who won the Qatar tournament at the weekend, also withdrew. Having undergone a hernia operation in October, the Czech injured his groin in Qatar and has been advised to rest.

An ambition goes awry



LONDON, Jan 8: An ambitious plan by an English First Division side to buy an Irish club in order to take advantage of the recent European legal ruling on player transfers was given the thumbs down on Sunday, reports Reuters.

David Sullivan, owner of Birmingham City, said he was prepared to spend more than 500,000 pounds sterling (750,000 dollars) buying one of Ireland's top clubs to sign out-of-contract players from English clubs for free and then transfer them on to Birmingham.

But the English football league said on Sunday such a plan would not be allowed.

Sullivan's plan stemmed from a ruling last month by the European Court of Justice that soccer's present transfer system between clubs in different countries was illegal.

Soft-porn newspaper owner Sullivan said: "This means that if we go to sign someone like Andy Cole at the end of his contract and the fee was to be decided by a tribunal then we'd be in a strong position."

"If the fee fixed by the tribunal was unreasonable our Irish club would instead move in and sign him for nothing — and then he would come back to England at no cost."

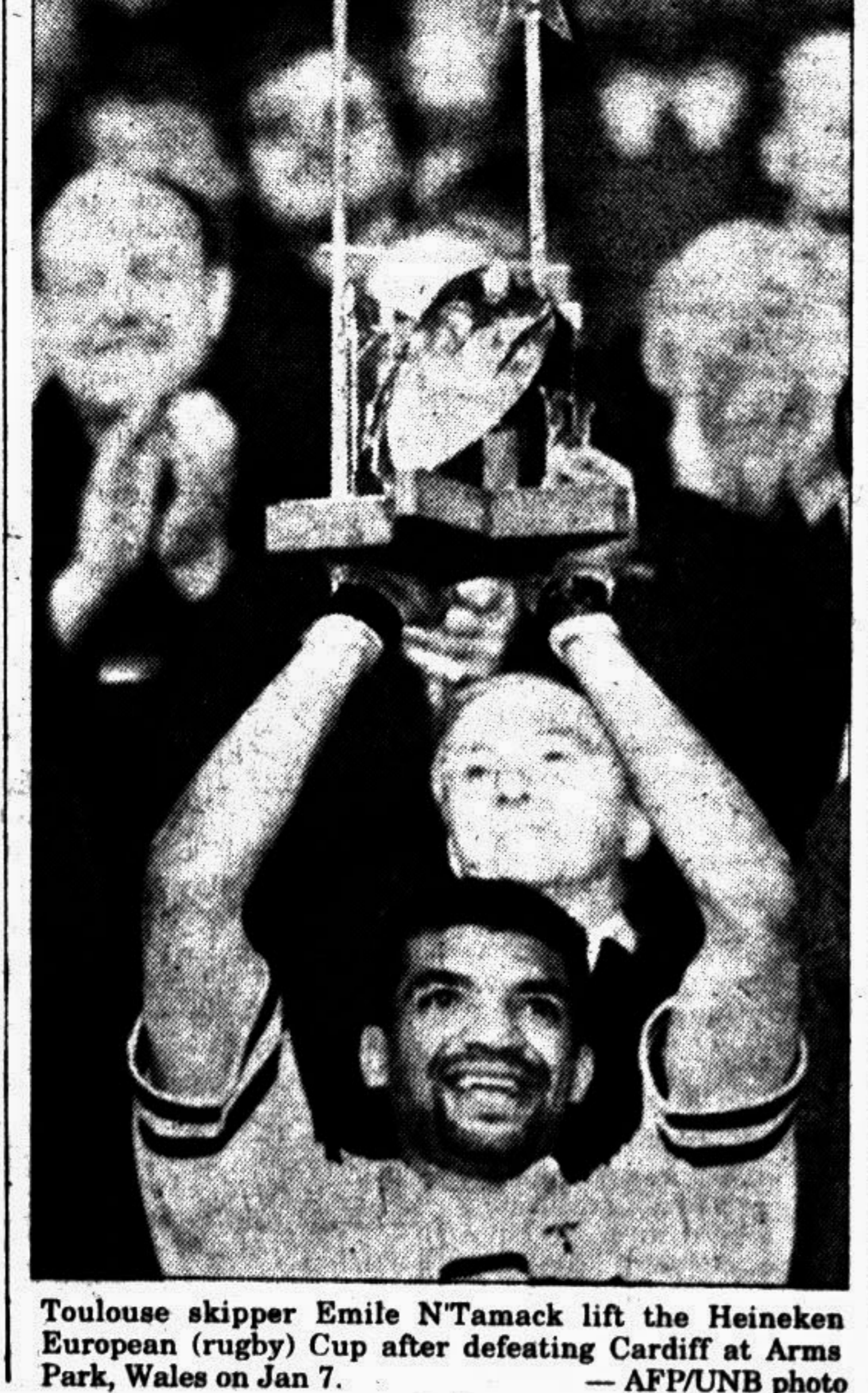
At the moment such a "back-door" transfer could be completed, although both FIFA and UEFA have said they are seeking a way of plugging the loophole to avoid any clubs taking advantage of the ruling.

But football league assistant secretary Adrian Williamson said Sullivan's plan to buy an Irish club would not be permitted.

"This just isn't legal," he said. "Any formal connection between clubs within the international football league board — and that means the

football league, the Premier league, the Scottish league and both Irish leagues — is prohibited."

Williamson added that such a link had been declared illegal a decade ago.



Toulouse skipper Emile Ntamack lift the Heineken European (rugby) Cup after defeating Cardiff at Arms Park, Wales on Jan 7. — AFP/UNB photo

Mission of a giant bat

COLOMBO, Jan 8: A giant cricket bat was unveiled in Sri Lanka on Monday to collect one million signatures before presenting it to the national team for next month's World Cup, reports AFP.

The 22-feet (5.6 metre) wooden replica, mounted on a truck, began its journey through some 200 towns and villages after Sports Minister S B Dissanayake placed his signature on it.

"We want to get the fans involved in the game and that is why thought of this signature campaign," said a spokesman for Coca Cola who are sponsoring the event.

Four matches in the World Cup, which starts February 14, are to be played in Sri Lanka. Pakistan and India and hosting the bulk of the tournament.

Cricket rankings

LONDON, Jan 8 (AFP): Australians top both batting and bowling lists in the Coopers Lybrand world rankings issued Monday.

Batsmen: 1. S Waugh (Aus) 920 pts.
2. B Lara (WI) 888
3. Inzamamul Haq (Pak) 825
4. M Waugh (Aus) 794
5. J Adams (WI) 781
6. M Slater (Aus) 765
7. M Taylor (Aus) 747
8. S Tendulkar (Ind) 737
9. G Hick (Eng) 719
10. G Thorpe (Eng) 708.

Bowlers: 1. S Warne (Aus) 874
2. C Ambrose (WI) 862
3. A Kumble (Ind) 829
4. Wasim Akram (Pak) 805
5. A Donald (SA) 796
6. I Bishop (WI) 781
7. F de Villiers (SA) 766
8. H Streak (Zimb) 745
9. C Walsh and K Benjamin (WI) 725.

Morrison axed

WELLINGTON, Jan 8: New Zealand's selectors recalled paceman Kerry Walmesley today and gave three other bowlers a chance to make their Test debut when they named their 13-man squad to face Zimbabwe in next week's first Test, reports Reuters.

Leg-spinner Greg Loveridge and pace bowlers Geoff Allott and Robert Kennedy form an experimental-looking bowling attack alongside Walmesley.

The selectors said Dion Nash was not considered because of injury, but the mission of the experienced Danny Morrison was a surprise to commentators.

The first Test in the two-match series starts in Hamilton on January 13.

SQUAD
Geoff Allott, Nathan, Astle, Chris Cairns, Stephen Fleming, Lee Gernon (captain), Robert Kennedy, Greg Loveridge, Adam Parore, Dipak Patel, Craig Spearman, Roger Twose, Kerry Walmesley, Bryan Young.

Zimbabwe-NZ Academy XI match drawn

WHANGAREI, New Zealand, Jan 8: Zimbabwe enjoyed some pre-Test batting practice today as their tour match against the New Zealand Academy Eleven faded into a draw, reports Reuters.

Left-hander Alistair Campbell put together an impressive unbeaten 59, including nine boundaries, and veteran David Houghton made 34 not out as the tourists advanced from an overnight 80 for one to declare at 207 for four.

Needing 269 for victory in a little under four hours, the Academy Eleven were 109 for one when stumps were drawn an hour early at the end of the three-day match.

Opener John Aiken completed his fourth first-class half-century, ending on 51 not out, while captain Lorne Howell was unbeaten on 39 at the finish.

A placid, slow pitch gave little help to batsmen seeking quick runs and provided scant assistance for the bowlers.

New Zealand's selectors were able to watch four young bowlers in action before naming them in an experimental attack for the first Test, starting in Hamilton on Saturday.

The recalled Kerry Walmesley finished with no wicket for 19 from 13 economical overs. Spinner Greg Loveridge and pacemen Geoff Allott and Robert Kennedy all in line to make their debuts, ended with a wicket apiece.

BRIEF SCORES

ZIMBABWE: 274-7 dec. and 207-4 dec.
Academy XI: 213 dec. and 109-1 (John Aiken 51 not out, Lorne Howell 39; Heath Streak 1-14).

When life is at stake!

ROME, Jan 8: An Italian minor league soccer referee, fleeing furious fans and players, barricaded himself in a changing room on Sunday and summoned a police escort by dialling an emergency number on a mobile telephone, reports Reuters.



A cricket fan signs her autograph on the blade of a giant cricket bat in Colombo yesterday. The bat, a gift for the Lankan national cricket squad, is scheduled to journey across the country in an attempt to get one million signatures. — AFP/UNB photo

Ranatunga prefers risk



MELBOURNE, Jan 8: The Sri Lankan cricket team may continue to play controversial off-spin bowler Muralitharan during their Australian tour, captain Arjuna Ranatunga said Monday, reports agencies.

Muralitharan has been no-balled for throwing twice in the last two weeks — by umpire Darrell Hair in the second Test against Australia in Melbourne on Dec 26 and again in a one-day match in Brisbane last Friday by both umpires Ross Emerson and Tony McQuillan.

His tour seemed over after the game's ruling body, the International Cricket Council (ICC), rejected the Sri Lankan's request on the weekend to convene a panel to make a ruling on Muralitharan's action, which they hoped would be ruled legitimate.

ICC chief executive David Richardson said umpires would remain the sole judges of a bowler's action, thus leaving Muralitharan's career in jeopardy.

But the ICC's cricket committee will set up an advisory body for accused throwers at a special meeting in Madras, India next month before the World Cup.

A determined Ranatunga said Richardson's decision did not mean the end for his country's leading Test wicket taker and said Muralitharan has still a chance to play again on tour.

"It depends on what umpires we get," he said Monday when asked whether Muralitharan would play again on tour.

Ranatunga did not rule Muralitharan out of Tuesday's World Series clash against Australia in Melbourne, a match in which McQuillan will be in charge along with Darryl Harper.

He said there was no doubt Muralitharan would remain on the tour even though the tourists had called up off-spinning all-rounder Ruwan Kalpage to join the team.

"It's not going to be our position to keep him out of cricket," he said. "It's the first time he has been called and only a couple of Australian umpires have called him. We've had neutral umpires watch him in Test matches and they have never

called him."

Ranatunga said Sri Lanka was desperate for Muralitharan to remain in cricket and would decide his availability on a match-by-match basis.

"Murali has been a match-winning bowler for us and he is also a brilliant fieldman," Ranatunga said. "He has been the key-man in our past successes and I think the majority of Sri Lankans recognise that."

Former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd told reporters in Sharjah today, "I did not see anything wrong with Muralitharan's action when he played here the last time (Asia Cup in April 1995)."

"I have not seen him recently and he was not chucking here. But he could have changed his action afterwards," Lloyd, who is here as the match referee for the on-going NEPC World Masters (over-35) cricket series, said.

"It is, however, strange that he has been called after playing 20 odd Tests. It is a difficult situation. I feel someone, without his knowledge should have filmed his action like in the olden days and studied it closely," Lloyd said.

Blatter belittles Diego



KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8: FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter on Friday lashed out at former Argentine captain Diego Maradona's threat to bring players out on strike during the World Cup if plans for bigger goals go ahead, reports AFP.

"We must remember that, in 1986, Maradona scored to use his hands to score a goal," Blatter said in reference to the controversial goal scored by the mercurial striker against England in the tournament's quarterfinal in Mexico.

Maradona's threat to lead players out on strike at the 1998 finals in France, published in a Spanish magazine earlier this week, came after Blatter proposed enlarging the goal mouth to allow more goals and make games more exciting.

Under the plan, goalposts would be widened by the width of two balls — approximately 50 centimetres — while the height of the cross bar would increase by one ball's diameter.

"Maradona has said many things in his life... I do not think players will go on strike," Blatter told a news conference after attending the draw for the Asian Olympics qualifying tournament here.

"In 1998 he will be 38 years old and I'm not sure if he will be able to play," he added.

Blatter said that various national football associations and clubs were still divided over his proposal to widen goal mouths, which have remained unchanged since 1878.

"The plan is creating a lot

of interest. We hope to get a Second Division team in Europe to try it later this year," he said.

Blatter said that goalkeepers were taller and bigger-built now and there were better boots for scoring.

There are also more opportunities to score, but more teams tend to opt for more cautious and defensive games, instead of attacking," he said.

Peter Velappan, Asia's top soccer official, said earlier Friday he would support the controversial plans, but said he doubted it would help make football a better spectacle.

"I think about football like the church — there is only a little amount you can change before you alter the whole essence," said Velappan, general secretary of the Kuala Lumpur-based Asian Football Confederation.

But Velappan said he fully supported FIFA's desire to look at ways of making football more attractive, which have involved controversial

proposals such as basketball-style time-outs, and kick-ins instead of throw-ins.

Blatter also backed the Football Association of Malaysia's (FAM) recent stern action against soccer bribery which saw more than 150 footballers and officials purged in a nation-wide crackdown last year.

He said FIFA supported FAM's sanctions against those players, which had served as a warning for the whole world.

FIFA would also be carrying out a worldwide programme to educate players on the dangers of taking bribes, he said.

Christie to run in domestic meets

LONDON, Jan 8: Briton Linford Christie, who has announced he will not defend his Olympic 100 metres title in Atlanta this year, will compete in two domestic indoor meetings this year, reports Reuters.

Christie will compete in Birmingham on February 10 and run for Britain against France in Glasgow two weeks later.

BAF v'ball

CHITTAGONG, Jan 8: Air headquarters unit defeated BAF base Pahar Kanchanpur in three straight sets of 15-1, 15-6, 15-3 in the BAF inter-base volleyball championship at BAF base Zahurul Haque here today, reports BSS.

Meanwhile, Air headquarters unit beat BAF base Zahurul Haque sets 15-3, 15-3, 15-4.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Praise to the skies
5 Doo
8 Blue hue
12 Lead-in to bird or plane
13 Ex-follower
14 Roll up and bind
15 Frost
16 Wet
17 Enthusiastic, plus
18 Cover the furniture?
20 Siding site
21 Phil and Steve
22 Tooth-paste type
23 Dude
24 Nephrite
27 Inactivity
32 Part of a Latin idiom
33 Ultra-modernist
34 Caviar
36 Ram amok
38 Hammett hound
39 Nettle

DOWN

2 Forty-five or twenty-two, e.g.
4 Beauty parlor
6 Treatment of neck
9 Eager
10 "At 17" singer
11 Janis
16 Parka part
17 Double agent
18 Flamingo, formerly
19 Differently
26 Lamb's dam
27 Microcom-puter
28 "Woe is me!"
29 Small plateau
30 Down treatment of neck
31 Implications of osculation
32 On
33 Friendly person?
34 Harm
35 Home agent
36 Flamingo, formerly
37 Crocheted blanket
38 Lamb's dam
39 Home puter
40 "Woe is me!"
41 Lindbergh book
42 Expert
43 Face
44 Does' org.
45 Sandra or Ruby
46 Home teetotaler
47 Cousin's milou
48 Lacrosse families
49 Gaffer's target
50 Alias abbr.
51 Country music?
52 "People"
53 Fortune partner
54 Acknowledge
55 Told tales
56 Gaffer's target
57 Race driver
58 Inventor's inspiration
59 Past

CRYPTOQUIP
GXT WBG RHJF CUBC
XYF S B P V M O Q B J
SVQXWV VHCUM RYBPG
XM Q M T O C G
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I HEARD THAT TO LOCATE MATH TUTORS YOU SIMPLY PLACE ADDS.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: R equals F
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.