

Last nail in the coffin of England

PORT ELIZABETH, Jan 21. England's disastrous cricket tour of South Africa finished in another defeat today when they were comfortably beaten by 64 runs in the seventh and final one-day international, reports Reuter.

In reply to South Africa's 218 for nine, England collapsed from 70-2 to 154 all out in 46.1 overs. Seamer Fanie de Villiers took 4-32 and off-spinner Pat Symcox 2-31 as England once again lost wickets at regular intervals.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the seventh and final one-day international between South Africa and England at St George's Park today:

SOUTH AFRICA				
Hudson c Thorpe b White	44			
Palfman c Russell b Martin	17			
Kirsten c Russell b Gough	10			
Cronje c Hick b Martin	61			
Kuiper not out	60			
Kallis run out	2			
McMillan b White	4			
Pollock c Thorpe b Gough	0			
Symcox b Gough	7			
De Villiers b Gough	0			
Admas not out	0			
Extras (lb-7, b-1, w-5)	13			
Total (for nine wickets — 50 overs)	218			
Fall of wickets: 1-30; 2-61; 3-123; 4-167; 5-172; 6-195; 7-196; 8-206; 9-206.				
Bowling				
Cork	10	0	53	0
Martin	9	0	47	2
Gough	10	0	33	4
Illingworth	10	1	31	0
Hick	4	0	19	0
White	7	0	27	2
(Incomplete)				

Houghton's WC hopes dashed

AUCKLAND, Jan 21: David Houghton, batting hero of Zimbabwe's first innings against New Zealand today with an unbeaten century, will miss next month's World Cup after breaking a bone in his foot, reports Reuter.

Houghton scored almost half his 104 not out after being struck on the foot by a ball from fast-medium bowler Robert Kennedy.

He had scored 55 at the time but batted on with a runner to reach his fourth Test century and guide Zimbabwe to 231 for seven at the close. 20 runs behind New Zealand.

But X-rays afterwards showed the second metatarsus in his foot was broken and he will be out of cricket for at least six weeks.

A dejected Houghton said later he was "as shattered as my foot".

"It's going to take a while to heal properly, six to eight weeks, so I'm out of the World Cup."

He will retire hurt in the first innings but has not ruled batting again if needed.

"If push comes to shove I might be available to bat in the second innings. We'll see what happens," said Houghton.

India rout Netherlands

BARCELONA, Jan 21: India routed World Cup finalist the Netherlands 4-1 in the men's Olympic hockey qualifying tournament today, reports Reuter.

It was their biggest win over the Dutch senior team since the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Left-half Ramandeep Singh, India's new penalty stroke taker, converted two seven-metre awards within five minutes midway through the first half to put India in command.

The Dutch pulled back a goal before halftime but India's centre forward Dhanraj Pillay scored twice in the second half from tight angles to complete the Dutch's misery.

Taco Van Den Honert netted the Dutch goal with a high flick shot at the fourth of their seven penalty corners but for once the vaunted Dutch corner Drill failed.

Goalkeeper Anjapara Subbiah made several fine saves to deny Honert another goal.

SPAIN BLANK

Belgium

A hat-trick by left winger Javier Aranu took Spain to a 4-0 win over Belgium on Saturday and left them in command.

Malaysia beat Belarus 2-0 with two late goals to remain on maximum points but Spain have the superior goal difference.

Aranu scored his first goal after just 17 seconds when he swept a centre from victor Pujol into the far corner of the Belgian goal.

Malaysia, who beat Belgium 2-1 in the opening match on Friday, dominated Saturday's game with Belarus, putting their opponents under a lot of pressure without being able to create scoring opportunities.

Eventually Mirnawan Nwawi and Nor Saiful who scored their goals against Belgium, broke the deadlock with a goal each.

Nwawi's goal, a brilliant reverse flick from Saiful's centre, came in the 60th minute and just 15 seconds after Lim Chiew had failed to convert a penalty by shooting straight at Belarus goalkeeper Alexandre Ekiemenko.



Flamboyant Las Vegas Andre Agassi strains every nerve to play a forehand return against Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman during their fourth round encounter of the Australian Open in Melbourne on Jan 21. The world number two struggled to beat the Swede 4-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Muster, Goran mown down



MELBOURNE, Jan 21: World number three Thomas Muster crashed out of the Australian Open today, losing to lowly-ranked Swede Mikael Tillstrom in a fourth-round upset and leaving Andre Agassi on track to regain the number one spot, report agencies.

The Austrian's stunning defeat by the 105th-ranked Tillstrom followed top seed Pete Sampras's straight sets drubbing late on Saturday at the hands of unseeded Australian teenager Mark Philippoussis and tenth seed Goran Ivanisevic who crashed out in the third round — a victim of his own errors against patient Italian player Renzo Furlan.

Defending champion Agassi had to struggle from behind for the third time, but beat Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman in five sets and advanced to the quarterfinals.

If he beats fellow American Jim Courier in the quarters, he will take over the No. 1 rank lost by Pete Sampras when he fell to Australian teenager Mark Philippoussis Saturday night. Otherwise, Muster will be No. 1 thanks to points amassed in a very successful clay court season last year, when he won the French Open — his only Grand Slam title to date.

Mixing drop shots among deep and wide blasts, Tillstrom, ranked No. 105, triumphed 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in two hours.

The 25-year-old Swede had played in only two previous Grand Slams, both on clay, reaching the fourth round of the French Open in 1994 and the second round

last year. He had failed to pass the qualifying round in two past Australian Opens, play on hardcourts.

With his risky style of play, he hit 36 groundstroke winners, to 14 by his hard-hitting Austrian opponent, but also had 52 unforced errors.

"The opponent gets furious when he doesn't get any rhythm. That was part of my game plan today," Tillstrom said.

Muster said, "I was always on the defensive, under pressure. He could choose his shots."

Some players have said Muster doesn't deserve to be No. 1 because he hasn't proven his abilities on surfaces other than clay.

Asked about the possibility of taking the top ranking if Agassi loses Tuesday, Muster said whoever has the most points deserves to be No. 1.

"It's not that you buy your points in the supermarket," he declared.

Earlier, Agassi asserted himself decisively at the end, losing just three games in two sets in a 4-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 fourth-round victory.

"If I don't win the tournament, I don't want to be ranked No. 1," said Agassi, who held the top spot for a while last year and so far has won three Grand Slam tournaments.

Courier reached the quarterfinals by winning his second straight five-setter, prevailing 7-5, 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 over South African Marcos Ondruska, Friday night, he had needed 4 and a half hours to beat Australian Todd Woodbridge.

Courier said he was happy with the way he was hitting at the end of his match

against Ondruska, but against Agassi, "I'm not going to beat him playing the way I played today."

Courier, who has won four Grand Slams, including the 1992 and 1993 Australian Opens, beat Agassi in the final of last year's Japan Open.

The Croatian's loss eliminated the chance of a quarterfinal clash between two of the game's biggest servers — Ivanisevic and Australian Mark Philippoussis, who overpowered top seed Pete Sampras Saturday night.

Ivanisevic hit 12 aces but overall put in just 52 per cent of his first serves and handed Furlan 73 free points on seven double faults and 66 unforced errors as he lost 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

"He played nothing special," Ivanisevic said. "I was the one who was very nervous. I don't know why, rushing too much, going for the winners everywhere, couldn't put the first serve in."

No. 5 Michael Chang was the first into the quarterfinals, winning his fourth straight-sets match 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 against French qualifier Jean-Philippe Fleurian.

Fleurian had reached the last 16 with help from injuries to two of his three early round opponents — Si-jeng Schalken and No. 11 seed Richard Krajicek, both of the Netherlands. He also beat former No. 1 Stefan Edberg of Sweden in five sets.

On Sunday, "I saw the trainer come on court to treat Chang. I thought, 'My God, it's not possible. It's all happening again. I must be some kind of black magic merchant."

"I got so excited about it, I lost concentration," Fleurian added.

Agassi, master craftsman

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

Jonas Bjorkman, a strongly-built Swede, forced Andre Agassi to produce one of his best performances at the Australian Open Sunday.

After a full five-set battle in which fortune fluctuated heavily, the seed no. 2 finally got better of his younger opponent and set up a quarterfinal match against former World No. 1 Jim Courier, who had to work hard against a South African.

Bjorkman was in high spirit and broke Agassi early in the first set to take it 6-4. But the 25-year-old Las Vegas came back very strongly with immaculate service returns and broke the 23-year-old Swede twice to take the set 6-2. Bjorkman, playing his ground strokes extremely well, took the third set at 6-4. This lead should have inspired Bjorkman to try for the fourth set. But Agassi was so determined that he hardly missed his doublehanded backhands and fierce forehand crosscourts that sped like lightning across the courts. Bjorkman had no answers to these. Agassi took the last two sets 6-1, 6-2.

BHF picks 32 for nat'l camp

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) have called 32 players to the national camp for two international meets to be held in India and Singapore.

According to the BHF, Bangladesh will take part in the Brighton Cup scheduled to be held in Calcutta in March and in the Junior Asia Cup to be held in Singapore in May.

The following players, excluding those who are related with the BKSF, have been asked to report at the BHF office on February 3.

The players are — Shamim Ahmed, Rasel Khan, Mohammed Javed, Ainul Islam, Mamunur Rashid, Mahfuz Alam, Isa Miah, Imtiaz Ahmed, Shamsuddin, Mohammed Hasan, Musa Miah, Rabiuddin Ahmed, Zahirul Islam, Khurshid Alam, Haider Alam, Tutul Kumar Nag, Azharul Islam, Mirazul Ahsan, Zahidur Rahman, Ziaur Rahman, Mahabubul Ehsan, Ashikur Rahman, Shahidullah, Rafiqul Islam, Ehtesam Hossain, Ramiz Ahmed, Giasuddin, Shamsuzzaman, Ariful Huq, Shahidullah, Mohammed Javed and Alamgir Alam.

Wes paves way for Lara

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Jan 21: Brian Lara's chances of playing in the World Cup were given a boost by West Indies manager Wes Hall on his return home from his side's disappointing tour of Australia, reports Reuter.

Lara's return could never hinder the team, said Hall. "He is the best batsman in the world — full stop."

Lara pulled out of the Australian trip because of disciplinary action taken against him after the Test series in England last year. But he has since been included in a provisional squad of 18 for the World Cup.

The West Indies' selectors meet on Tuesday to select their final 14-man squad.

"What we needed to do in Australia was to make sure that when he (Lara) returned he was not on a rescue mission — rather that he was joining a team full of confidence and recognising their ability," said Hall.

However, West Indies returned home anything but confident after failing to reach the World Series finals.

West Indies will be holding a training camp for the World Cup squad in Barbados from January 31 to February 6.

"We will be taking remedial action in the camp," said Hall. "In Australia we were brilliant at times and we were bad at times."

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Orient SC, Lalbagh Anwar CC and East End Club won their respective matches in the Acme Second Division cricket league at different venues in the capital yesterday.

On the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium Orient thumped PWD by 68 runs while Lalbagh overcame Amorjoti by 7 wickets at the Dhanmondi Club Ground. East End made light work of Young Pegasus A, winning by eight wickets at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

BRIEF SCORE

ORIENT SC: 233 in 33.3 overs (Mahbub 70, Jewel 35, Tushar 30; Shujon 3/40)

PWD: 165 in 34.4 overs (Fazlu 41, Shusanto 46; Dallim 6/18)

AMORJOTI CLUB: 172 in 37.1 overs (Extras 39; Mahbub 3/44, Masum 2/26, Shahidul 2/25)

LALBAGH ANWAR CC: 174/3 in 34.1 overs (Jafar 88 n.o., Mamun 24, extras 43)

YOUNG PEGASUS 'A': 63 in 15.4 overs (Extras 25, Noman 3/15, Bari 2/20, Abir 2/15, Pradip 2/10)

EAST END CLUB: 67/2 in 10.4 overs (Subir 17 n.o., Yein 19 n.o.)

Sun sets on Sabatini



MELBOURNE, Jan 21: Teenagers Chanda Rubin and Iva Majoli stormed into the last eight of the Australian Open today, joining joint world number one Monica Seles who stayed on track for her ninth Grand Slam title, report agencies.

American Rubin upset world number seven Gabriela Sabatini in straight sets as the Argentine's notorious serve let her down again, while Croatia's seventh seeded Majoli had an emphatic 6-2, 6-2 win against Belgium's Sabine Appelmans.

The 19-year-old Rubin, who goes into her second Grand Slam quarterfinal, beat number six seed Sabatini 6-2, 6-4 in 76 minutes and could thank her opponent's serve for the ease of her victory.

lot of wind and the ball was moving a lot and I guess I wasn't quite focused on doing everything, every step I have to do," Sabatini told reporters.

Seles, who had an easy 6-1, 6-3 victory over Naoko Sawamatsu, still looks the favourite to win her first Grand Slam title since her return to tennis last August but Majoli is likely to provide a major test in the quarterfinals.

The world's No 1 is no far beyond the other female pros that she has had to practice against top-100 ranked men to get a real workout.

It's very tough to practice with women, that's just reality either because they are not up to par or they are her competitors, like Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Seles said. "But to find someone at my level, or at the top ranks, it's

played the first part of the match a little bit easier," she said.

It was a noisy smash-and-volley game low across the net, Sawamatsu shouting "Agghh!" as she returned each shot, Seles grunting "Ughh! Erff! Aaahh-heel" as she hit the ball.

Seles, who all last week wore a black-and-white checked outfit, switched to a white shirt and black skirt for this match. The white shirt shows she still has a bit of a belly, but is slimmer than last year.

Fifteen-year-old Swiss prodigy Martina Hingis, who plays 11th seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy in the fourth round on Monday, could become the third teenager in the last eight.

The 18-year-old Majoli said after defeating Appelmans that she was looking forward to meeting Seles.

"I am just going to try my best and see what happens... she's a great player," said Majoli who played and lost to Seles before the April 1993 stalling by a crazed Steffi Graf fan in Hamburg which led to her 28-month absence from the game.

Thirteenth-seeded Rubin, who climbed steadily through the world rankings last year to her current number 14, said she was going into her quarterfinal match against world number three Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario full of confidence.

Sanchez-Vicario, who has quietly progressed through the early rounds with straight-sets victories, came up against her old adversary Mary Joe-Fernandez in today's fourth round and won surprisingly easily, 6-3, 6-3.

The Spaniard, beaten by the ninth-seeded American in their last encounter at the US Open, said she was in control of the match throughout.

Ye, Suprianto wrest crowns

TOKYO, Jan 21: Ye Zhaoying saw off Susi Susanti to defend her number one ranking in the finals of the Japan Open badminton competition today, while Joko Suprianto gave Heryanto Arbi an unwelcome 24th birthday present to win the men's singles, reports AFP.

Chinese world champion Ye, who crashed to Indonesian Susanti in the season-opening Taipei Open final a week ago, extracted a small measure of revenge with an 11-7, 11-8 victory to wrest the women's singles title here.

And in the men's final Suprianto took 97 minutes to beat Arbi 15-12, 13-18, 15-14 in an all-Indonesian match.

South Korea took home two titles - Gil Young-Ah and Jang Hye-Ock downed China's Ge Fei and Gu Jun 15-5, 14-17, 15-10 in the women's double.



A KISS OF DEATH: Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain about to kiss her American opponent Mary Joe-Fernandez after blasting her out 6-3, 6-3 during their fourth round clash at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Jan 21.

Sabatini, who blamed the wind and her lack of concentration for 10 double faults, joins defending champion Mary Pierce and world number five Kimiko Date as the major casualties in the women's singles in the year's first Grand Slam event.

"Just some days the timing is not good... there was a

lot easier to find men." Seles' tennis has been awesome, and there is no sign that the groin injury she had coming into this Grand Slam tournament is bothering her, as she had no trouble moving around to put away Sawamatsu.

"I have to stretch a little bit longer, that's why I

Audentes fortuna juvat



MELBOURNE, Jan 21: Pete Sampras, generous in defeat, paid tribute to the talent of his 19-year-old conqueror Mark Philippoussis at the Australian Open today rather than dwell on any weaknesses in his own game, reports Reuter.

Sampras, who was beaten in straight sets by the unseeded Australian late on Saturday night, made no excuses for his shock third-round exit from the year's first Grand Slam event.

"I didn't play bad, I thought I could have played a little bit better, returned a little bit better, but when he's serving that big, there's nothing you can do," he told reporters after a heart-thumping tussle on the Flinders Park Centre Court.

In losing 6-4, 7-6, 7-6, Sampras tasted his first straight sets defeat since tumbling out of the Australian Open semifinal here against Sweden's Stefan Edberg in 1993.

The American had almost prophesied his downfall earlier this week when he agreed Philippoussis was one to watch in 1996.

"He has the weapons and that's the first thing I look at in a young guy coming up... and he certainly has the serve and the second serve," Sampras had said on Thursday after heating compatriot Michael Joyce in the second round.

Three days later, those words rang true as the young Australian unleashed his serve with unforgiving accuracy on the world's top player at speeds of up to 207 kph.

Seeking an explanation, reporters at Sampras's post-match news conference asked if a recent, well-publicised bout of influenza had told on his fitness and preparation for the match.

"I felt pretty fresh coming in," replied Sampras, who came into the Open having just recovered from flu that kept him in bed and forced him to miss a warm-up exhibition event in Melbourne last week.

It was even suggested to him that a mobile phone ringing in the crowd might have broken his concentration.

"He was just on today, plain and simple," Sampras said of his pumped-up opponent. "I felt he was on his game."

"My problem was trying to break him. I just couldn't read his second serve, his first serve. I was just kind of a little bit overwhelmed, so my serve was a little bit up and down."

Sampras, who has now surrendered his top ranking to Austrian Thomas Muster or Andre Agassi, conceded he would take time to recover from Saturday night's loss or one of his favourite surfaces.

"This is certainly not a great start but there's a lot of tennis yet to be played," he said.

When noise takes its toll!

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 21: Four African drummers had to be reprimanded on Saturday when officials decided their noisy support for Zimbabwe just wasn't cricket, the Sunday Star Times reported, reports Reuter.

The Auckland-based drummers — originally from Zaire, Mali and Sierra Leone — decided to go to the second cricket Test against New Zealand after meeting the Zimbabwean team at an African club.

AUSSIE OPEN NOTEBOOK



MELBOURNE, Jan 21 (AP): Mark Philippoussis believes in himself — you'd have to, to face Pete Sampras and take him down — but he's not a betting man.

Hometown hero Philippoussis stunned Sampras and the tennis world by knocking off the world No. 1 in the third round of the Australian Open on Saturday night, 6-4, 7-6 (11-9), 7-6 (7-3).

Bookies had put the odds of Philippoussis straight-set victory at 25-1.

Would Philippoussis have put his own money on himself, at those odds?

"No, not at all. But I'm happy it happened," he said.

No thrown rackets, no tantrums, no cursing at umpires over questionable decisions. Sure, John McEnroe's off the court, but are today's players really that better be-

haved? They are indeed, says Australian Open tournament referee Peter Bellinger.

"In some ways John McEnroe was right, the umpiring at times wasn't very good," he said. "But now we have professional umpires who appear at all the major tournaments and they have the confidence of the players."

"The number of fines is down by half from 10 years ago and serious offenses are rare, he said.

By mid-tournament at the Australian Open, Andre Agassi had been fined US \$1,500 for an audible obscenity, Frederik Fetterlein fined US 1,000 dollars for un-sportsmanlike conduct, and Thomas Muster may still be fined if a video replay shows he made an obscene gesture at the umpire.

Anke Huber knows that in the official press confer-

ences, she won't face any personal questions. The Women's Tennis Association officials cut them off as soon as they rear their ugly head.

But at "Autograph Island," where the fans get to hang around with visiting pros, there's no censorship, so an admirer asked Huber if she and Andre Medvedev are still an "item."

"Ah, I thought you would ask about that," Huber said, squirming. "No, we are good friends, that's all."

Autograph Island is where the fans get to mingle with their idols — if they idolize them.

Mali/Vai Washington was signing autographs when a 9-year-old kid named Trent told him, "I think me and my cousin could beat you."

After 15 minutes of debate over who was better, Washington, and the two kids took to a nearby court and settled it. Washington besting them in an hour-long one-on-two match.

SA canter, Zambia saunter



JOHANNESBURG, Jan 21: South Africa survived several anxious moments before beating Angola 1-0 in their African Nations' Cup Group A match in Johannesburg on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The victory, secured in the 57th minute by England-based striker Mark Williams, put the hosts on the verge of qualifying for the quarterfinals in their first appearance in the tournament.

Williams, who plays for Wolverhampton Wanderers in the English First Division, showed his predatory skills by seizing on a chance after Angolan goalkeeper Orlando had failed to hold a free kick by Eric Tinkler.

Williams was first to the rebound and blasted the ball into the net for his fourth goal in his last three international appearances.

But South African goalkeeper Andre Arendse emerged as the hero with two vital saves in the second half.

Shortly before the goal he blocked a powerful close-range shot from Angolan captain Tubia and then made an equally brilliant save from Joni in the final 10 minutes. Persistent rain did not

provide the home team with comfortable conditions and strong physical play from Angola forced South Africa into several near-costly defensive efforts.

It might have been a different story, however, had South Africa gone into the lead in the very first minute when Tinkler's rasping free-kick struck the Angolan woodwork as the home team sought the early momentum.

Leeds United striker Phil Masinga also hit the Angolan crossbar in the second half but South Africa were relieved to have taken all three

Sievinen breaks own mark