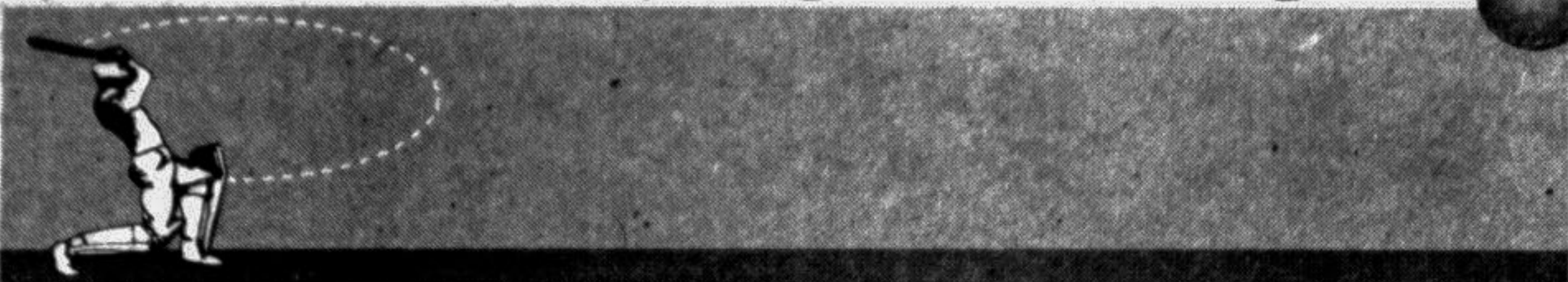


The World Cup with Philips



Not just live. Alive.

Africans at war

PATNA, India, Feb 25: Newcomers Kenya and Zimbabwe will clash on Monday in the eastern Indian city of Patna in an encounter that will decide the tall-end of the tally in Group A of the sixth World Cup cricket tournament, reports AP.

The African teams have lost all their previous matches to powerful teams, and have no points. Sri Lanka tops the chart with six points, four gained from walkovers against Australia last week and West Indies on Sunday.

Zimbabwe are more experienced of the two teams, but the spirited Kenyan resistance to India and Australia have shown that the team's batting and fielding capabilities had been underrated. Kenya scored 199 runs in their 50 overs against India and lost to Australia by 97 runs after scoring 207 against Australia.

But Zimbabwe's skipper said he wasn't worried. "I don't want to think too much about our opponents," Andy Flower told reporters Sunday.

Monday's match will be Zimbabwe's 23rd World Cup game, of which they have won just two. "Our chances of qualifying for the quarterfinals are not good," Flower said.

The teams will be announced before the match begins, but Kenya are likely to rest Kennedy Otieno, who scored 85 against Australia, and play substitute wicket-keeper Tariq Iqbal when the team fields.

TEAMS

ZIMBABWE: Andy Flower (captain), Andrew Waller, Paul Strang, Bryan Strang, Alistair Campbell, Eddo Brandes, Stephen Peall, Guy Whittall, Grant Flower, Heath Streak, Chris Evans, Charles Lock, Heino Olonga and Sean Davis.

KENYA: Maurice Oduke (captain), Asif Karim, Edward Oduke, Dipak Chudasama, Kennedy Otieno, David Iqbal, Hitesh Modi, Tariq Iqbal, Lameck Onyango, Brijlal Patel, Martin Simbi, Steve Tikolo.

Umpires: Khizar Hyat (Pakistan) and Cyril Mitchell (South Africa). Third umpire: Farid Malik. Match referee: MAK Pataudi.

Kiwis right on to target

FAISALABAD, Feb 25: New Zealand just one win away from a place in the World Cup quarterfinals, have worked hard to improve their fielding in advance of Tuesday's Group B match against the United Arab Emirates, reports Reuters.

The New Zealanders made a vibrant start to the tournament, upsetting England by 11 runs and romping to a 119-run victory over the Netherlands. Their progress was abruptly halted by the impressive South Africans who, helped by three dropped catches, won by five wickets last Tuesday.

"We made crucial mistakes in the field but since then we've worked hard to improve our fielding and catching," said New Zealand captain Lee Germon.

New Zealand manager Glenn Turner freely admitted the team intended to use the match against the lowly UAE to prepare for their final group match against champions Pakistan.

For their part the UAE, the weakest team in the tournament, are determined to atone for their dismal showing against Pakistan on Saturday, when they lost by nine wickets in a rain-shortened match.

Martin Crowe's enforced retirement this year after a losing battle against a chronic knee injury removed the last link with the glory days of the 1980s when New Zealand won series against each of the other Test playing countries and remained undefeated at home.

Following a disastrous century season, the New Zealanders have regrouped under Germon's astute captaincy.

They showed genuine spirit and fight against England in a game highlighted by the first century of the tournament from Nathan Astle.

But New Zealand need to have both Astle and fellow opener Craig Spearman firing at the same time, the catches sticking and accurate bowling from their medium-pacers if they are going to trouble the leading sides in the tournament.

Novotna meets Majoli in final

ESSEN, Germany, Feb 25: Fourth seed Jana Novotna played what she called her best match of the week to upset German second seed Anke Huber 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals of the 450,000 dollars WTA tournament in Essen on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The Czech holder of the title will meet top seed Iva Majoli of Croatia in today's final. Majoli, 18, cruised past Sweden's unseeded Asa Carlsson 6-3, 6-2 earlier in the day.

Waiting another whacking



LAHORE, Feb 25: Old-timer Javed Miandad will be hoping to take centre stage against Holland here on Monday and add further impetus to Pakistan's flying World Cup start, reports agencies.

Miandad and the rest of the reigning champions' batting line-up had to wait 10 days before their tournament got underway on Saturday...



WASIM AKRAM

underway on Saturday... then spent another 18 overs watching Saeed Anwar and Ijaz Ahmed filling their boots during the nine-wicket win over the United Arab Emirates.

The bowlers, led by three-wicket taker Mushtaq Ahmed, also enjoyed Saturday's outings but they must expect a back seat on Monday.

Wasim Akram will be keen to bat first to give his batsmen a 'net' against minor opposition, while Holland could just as easily be choosing to avoid the Emirates' fate — they were reduced to 109 for nine in 33 overs after being put in — and chase instead.

The World Cup holders Pakistan have no intention of lowering their guard when they meet pugnacious minnows.

"We are taking each match seriously, whether facing weak or strong opponents," said Pakistan captain as his side prepared for their second game of the tournament at Lahore's newly-renovated Gaddafi Stadium.

Akram said his side were not underestimating the Dutch, who have produced some determined and creditable performances in their early matches.

"The players have been firmly told to maintain the same professional attitude they displayed against the UAE," he said.

If Pakistan get first crack at what is sure to be a good batting strip, Miandad is likely to get his chance — perhaps after a promotion up the order.

The 38-year-old veteran, recalled for his sixth World Cup after revoking a two-year retirement, got into the game early against the Emirates by catching Saleem Raza off Aaqib Javed at long on for Pakistan's first wicket.

From then on, apart from one sharp shy at the stumps, he was reduced to the role of spectator.

Wasim, quizzed about whether he had considered moving Miandad up the order to get him into the action, said, "It wasn't really needed."

"The other guys needed some practice. He'll get his chance in the coming matches."

Holland, meanwhile, will want to show that they can compete with the very best after impressive shows against New Zealand and England.

Skipper Steve Lubbers felt his side deserved more credit. "With a little more experience we could have turned the tables on England," he argued. "We were well on our way but due to our batsmen's inexperience, we failed to boost the total during the 20th and 35th over."

Many of the Dutch players have suffered stomach upsets since they arrived in the sub-continent, but they have refused to let it get them down.

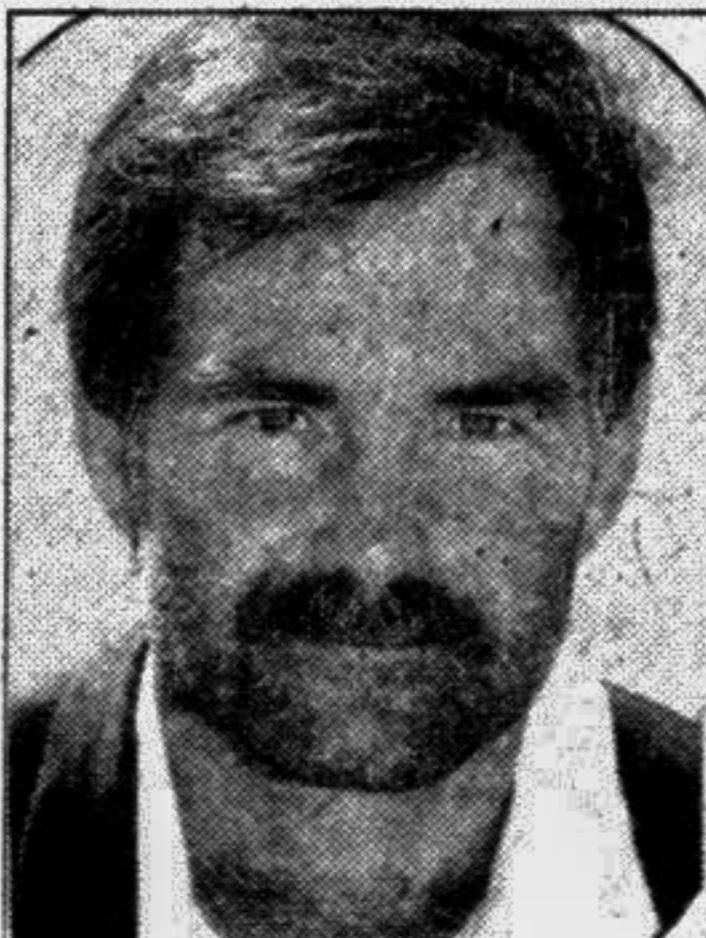
Captain Steven Lubbers said his team were getting better

with each game and praised the work of former hockey coach Hans Jorritsma, who has been helping with training and advice on nutrition.

"Hans trained the Pakistan hockey team that won the World Cup in Australia. So his experience with Pakistani conditions has been extremely valuable for us," said Lubbers.

Experience, one would have thought, was one thing the Dutch were not short of, with several 40 somethings in the side.

Opener Nolan Clarke, the former Barbadian and the old-



S. LUBBERS

est of the lot at 47, will want to provide some excitement on Monday after two failures with the bat.

TEAMS

PAKISTAN: Wasim Akram (Capt), Aamir Sohail, Saeed Anwar, Ramiz Raja, Javed Miandad, Salim Malik, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Rashid Latif, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed, Ataur Rehman, Mushtaq Ahmed and Saqlain Mushtaq.

HOLLAND: Steven Lubbers (Capt), Roland Lefebvre, Nolan Clarke, Tim de Leede, Reinout Sholte, Erik Gouka, Floris Jansen, Klaas Jan van Norrtwijk, Flavio Aponso, Paul Jan Bakker, Peter Cantrell, Marcel Schewe, Robert van Oosterom, Bas Zuidereit.

Big battle in the offing



BOMBAY, Feb 25: India looks set to make a key World Cup tactical switch before Tuesday's momentous Bombay battle with Australia, with Navtej Sidhu the likely casualty, reports AFP.

Flair player: Sidhu, used as a top-order batsman, is limping badly after scoring just a couple of runs in his first two outings.

The selectors' patience may finally have snapped before Tuesday's sell-out, with Sanjay Manjrekar — more of a Test tortoise — the perfect substitute.

Indian manager Ajit Wadekar admitted: "Yes, playing Sanjay is a good option before us, better than what most teams can hope for. He is one of the best batsmen in the game today and very experienced."

Wadekar, however, admitted it would grate to drop No 3 Sidhu, a veteran of 94 one-dayers, and stressed the final decision would not be taken before Monday evening.

"It's a big move before an important game. A lot of thinking will have to be done before we go for it," he argued.

"Sidhu is one of our most capable batsmen, his free hitting is ideally suited to one-day cricket. It's not easy to drop him. The only good thing is that Manjrekar can also fit the bill perfectly. He can come in early and hold one end up."

Bombay-based Wadekar offers the added attraction of being on home territory at the Wankhede Stadium, the venue of the high-profile day-night match.

A copybook batsman, Manjrekar has played 59 international matches with a personal best of 105 not out against South Africa in New Delhi in 1991.

Sidhu's cause, meanwhile, is not helped by a throat infection that kept him away from the nets on Friday and Saturday.

Whoever plays, the game will be watched by a full-house of 45,000 frenzied fans.

"This could be the best match of the league phase between the two leading one-day sides in the world," said Bombay Cricket Association official Pravin Barve. "I have never seen such excitement before for an international match."

Wadekar, meanwhile, predicted a run feast.

"I expect a high-scoring game because the wicket at the Wankhede has always helped batsmen. We have to be very sure about our batting," he said.

He also suggested Australia, already without strike bowler Craig McDermott after tearing a calf muscle during the first game, would be tougher opponents than the West Indies, but felt India had one big advantage — home conditions.

"Australia are an impressive one-day side. You have got to be at your best to beat them. But I think we will be better prepared than them."

I watched Australia's first match on television, and it looked as if they had not yet

got used to the hot and humid conditions. They really sweated out there in the field.

That's a good sign for us, because Bombay can be equally hot and humid, especially under the lights."

Wadekar and captain Mohammad Azharuddin were both satisfied with the team's winning form against Kenya and the West Indies.

Two out of two is a good start by any reckoning, that way I am pleased," Azharuddin said.

"I was not happy at the way we played our first game, but the showing against the West Indies at Gwalior was much better. The bowling and the fielding was tight and it can only get better."

Azharuddin brushed aside suggestions that India's batting revolved only around Sachin Tendulkar, who won both man-of-the-match awards with scores of 127 not out and 70.

"Sachin is in good form and I hope he continues in this manner for the remaining matches, but we will not be worried if he gets out early."

"We bat deep and Nayan Mongia who comes in at seven, proved that in both matches by remaining not out," Azharuddin said.

Mongia made eight against Kenya and a valuable 24 against the West Indies, partnering Vinod Kambli in a match-winning stand of 47 after India were reduced to 127 for five chasing 174.

Wadekar said: "We were in no pressure despite the quick wickets. Somehow we were always confident that we would win."

WILLS WORLD CUP DIARY

ISLAMABAD, Feb 25(AFP): World Cup diary here today:

DALMIYA'S IN THE DOG HOUSE

AS if World Cup organiser Jagmohan Dalmiya did not have enough problems. The Australians and the West Indies started their by refusing to play in Sri Lanka. Then the tax authorities started to nose into the tournament books. Now his pet Alsatian has landed him in the dog house after biting a police constable guarding his house.

A complaint has been registered against Dalmiya for "negligent conduct in respect of guarding animals against causing danger to human beings." Police officer Gautam Chakraborty was quoted by newspapers as saying Dalmiya could be arrested.

WAUGH'S PUT RIVALS ON THE BACK ... OR FRONT ... FOOT

KENYA'S bowlers were the first to discover just how hard the Waughes are to contain when they get together at the crease. The problem is that Mark prefers to play off front foot and Steve off the back, forcing bowlers to keep readjusting their length. But there is one reason to be grateful — just imagine how hard it would be to choose how full to bowl if the Australians had been born identical twins...

PAKISTAN TURNS TO PRAYER

PAKISTAN Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has called on the country to pray for divine blessings to help the side retain its title. It seemed to work during the opening nine-wicket win over the amateurs from the United Arab Emirates.

STUBBORN SULTAN USES HIS HEAD AT LAST

UNITED Arab Emirates skipper Sultan Zarawani used his head again at the weekend — in the right way this time. After refusing to wear a helmet against South Africa and being rewarded with a high-speed crack on the skull by Allan Donald, he took guard against Waqar Younis peering through a grill.

Dealing with dexterity



NEW DELHI, Feb 25: Sinuous spin, deceiving and defeating the batsman in the air and off the pitch, has long been associated with the sub-continent, reports Reuters.

Now India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, countries redolent of romance and mystery, have



MUSHTAQ AHMED

Mushtaq made an immediate impact in Pakistan's opening match against the United Arab Emirates on Saturday, bamboozling the middle-order to finish with three for 16 and pick up the man-of-the-match award.

Kumble hit the stumps three times in India's comprehensive defeat over West Indies while Strang took the only four West Indian wickets to fall when Zimbabwe went down to the Caribbean side in both teams' opening match.

Only Warne failed to play a significant part in the opening round, returning a modest one for 25 against Kenya, but Qadir's former teammate Zaheer Abbas has no doubt where he stands in the present day pantheon.

"I would rate him among the best all-time leg-spinners," Zaheer wrote in a newspaper article. "I have rarely seen a leg-spinner turn the ball as much as he does."

Warne, with his bleached blond hair and characteristic Australian informality, has already been a hit with Indian spectators, who appear ready to forgive Australia for their refusal to play in violence-racked Sri Lanka.

He gave the ball a tremendous tweak, possesses all the variations, and can adjust his flight precisely to fit the differing requirements of Test and one-day cricket.

Mushtaq, who propelled Pakistan to victory in the third Test against Australia late last year after they had gone down heavily in the two opening encounters, is now clearly back to his best.

He has lacked control in the past but was on the spot against the admittedly weak UAE side and bowled with a

in teams," observed former Pakistan international Abdul Qadir, himself one of the greatest exponents of back-of-the-hand spin.

"But now things have changed. I will be happy to see a revival of what used to be called a dying art."

Warne, Pakistan's Mushtaq Ahmed, Indian Anil Kumble and Zimbabwean Paul Strang have now all exhibited their skills.

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He has lacked control in the past but was on the spot against the admittedly weak UAE side and bowled with a

beguiling loop. Kumble is the most unorthodox of the three, pushing the ball through quickly and relying mainly on top spin. He followed three for 28 against Kenya with an even more significant three for 35 against West Indies.

The biggest surprise packet in the early matches was Strang, who bowled Sherwin Campbell with a googly the West Indian opener completely failed to spot, had captain



ANIL KUMBLE



SHANE WARNE

Richie Richardson caught at slip and even beat the great Brian Lara with another perfectly-pitched googly.

"It was one of the highlights of my career," Strang said of the Campbell dismissal. "I do bowl the googly occasionally which takes off. And against Campbell it landed right on the spot."

Focus on fabulous four



ISLAMABAD, Feb 25: Guile takes on grace in Bombay on Tuesday as World Cup heavyweights Australia and India stage the first 24-carat confrontation of the tournament, reports AFP.

At the heart of the game will be a quartet of players to delight cricketing connoisseurs. In the yellow corner, Shane Warne and Mark Waugh. In the light blue, Anil Kumble and Sachin Tendulkar.

Two out of the world's premium spinners, two of its most explosive strokeplayers and a 45,000 full-house eagerly looking on to complete a perfect day-night scenario.

Kumble, the smiling assassin, will take the field as the Cup's most successful bowler to date, with three wickets against Kenya and another three against the West Indies.

The contrast he forms with Warne could not be more intriguing, a case of Indian chalk and Australian cheese.

Kumble is tall, lean and dark. Warne blond and stocky. The man from Bangalore, even without his discarded librarian spectacles, is happily reserved, the ear-studded Australian loudly controversial.

They bowl differently, too.

Warne lives up to his definition. A leg spinner, he

spins the ball, prodigiously at times. Of all his 200-odd Test wickets, one will never be forgotten. The Victorian's first ball in an Ashes series pitched a full foot outside Mike Gatting's leg stump and hit the top of the off.

He has single-handedly redefined the art of wrist spinning, adding unprecedented control to traditional turn and disguise. Mark Taylor even uses him to bowl those nerve-racking final overs to a one-day innings.

Kumble? Well, you need to have faced him to know what he gets up to. Even his victims seem at a loss to explain quite what went wrong as they trudge back up the pavilions steps.

As good a judge of spin as former England batsman Keith Fletcher dismissed him — "I don't believe we will have many problems with him" — just before his side toured India three years ago. Kumble's 21 wickets from three Tests suggested that Fletcher had overlooked something.

Kumble has over 100 Test victims. Yet stand behind the arm and his deliveries do not seem to deviate at all as they roll rather than rip from the hand.

It is only when facing him that the variations become apparent, deliveries drifting one way and then the other, crawling off the pitch one moment and then rearing up with the ferocity of a snake bite.

Warne's art, like his personality, is brash and bright. Kumble's is subtle and hard to detect as a white ball against a white sightscreen.

Tendulkar and Waugh have more in common. Both are middle-order batsmen masquerading as one-day openers. Both have taken time to mature. Both are already making serious runs.

Tendulkar, Bombay born, has walked to the crease twice, scored 127 not out and 70 and snaffled two man-of-the-match awards. Waugh has padded up just once for 130 — even then he sacrificed his wicket to let his teammates have a go at the Kenyan bowlers — and, inevitably, pocketed a 1,000 pound cheque for services rendered.

Against the West Indies, the 22-year-old Indian, playing with a heavy bottom hand, sent the ball rattling into the mid-wicket boards at regular intervals. Against Kenya, Waugh, floppy hatted, preferred to make room outside the off stump and dissect the cover field or hit high and handsome towards long off.

Others, of course, will have their say on Tuesday. Mark Taylor or Steve Waugh could make a ton, matched by Mohammad Azharuddin, while pace bowler Javagal Srinath may share a sackful of wickets with Paul Reiffel and Glenn McGrath.



The Daily Star PHILIPS

Cricket World Cup Quiz '96

Thank you Readers! Look out for the Draw!

Thank you, readers, for your overwhelming participation in **The Daily Star-Philips Cricket World Cup Quiz 1** which concluded at the stroke of midnight on February 25 as announced earlier.

There's even **BETTER NEWS AND BIGGER PRIZES** in Quiz 2: Bumper Round which begins from tomorrow, February 27 and will continue upto March 15, 1996.

The Draw of **The Daily Star-Philips Cricket World Cup Quiz 1** will be held on a date to be announced soon.

The Draw will be supervised by eminent personalities.

All the valued readers of **The Daily Star** as well as participants of Quiz 1 will be most welcome to attend the Draw when it takes place.

Steffi hiring a new manager

NEUSS, Germany, Feb 25: Steffi Graf wants Romanian tennis impresario Ion Tiriac to manage her career and the pair has been discussing the possibility in months of secret talks, the news weekly Der Spiegel reported Saturday.

Spiegel reported that Graf had already severed ties with manager Phil de Picciotto of the US-based firm Advantage International. The newsweekly quoted Graf as saying that the contract with Advantage was, in her opinion, binding with her father, who had signed the deal, and not with her.

"There is no contract between me and Advantage," Spiegel quoted Graf as saying.

Tiriac, who was Bogu Becker manager for 10 years, said nothing had been signed with Graf and that reports were "clear speculation." But he confirmed that he had met with the world's top-ranked player several times in the last months, most recently 10 days ago.

All-American clash on cards

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb 25: World number one Pete Sampras overpowered third seed Michael Chang 6-3, 6-2 on Saturday to set up an all-American final with two-time defending champion Todd Martin at the Kroger St Jude tournament, reports Reuters.

Fifth seed Martin earlier continued his mastery of Memphis with a 6-3, 6-5 win over 10th-seeded Australian Mark Philippoussis. The victory put Martin into the final of this event for the fourth year in a row.

Martin played nearly flawless tennis to neutralise the power of 19-year-old rising star Philippoussis and extend his Memphis winning to 14 consecutive matches. Martin has a 20-2 career record in this event.

Sampras gave Chang few chances to get back into the match after the top seed saved two break points in the final game of the first set. Chang had dug himself into a hole the previous game by serving up three double faults.