

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT every sportsman has his favourite. Mark Taylor, the Aussie cricket captain, enjoys M. A. Scott on TV, swings to drive straits music, loves to drive a Mazda 626 and relishes Indian curries. His hobbies include golf and fishing. He loves to play at Adelaide, Trent Bridge and Cape Town.

And, hates Perth. Taylor cherishes the 1989 win against England at Old Trafford when he played a winning role and would rather forget the 1994 Test at Adelaide when they lost to West Indies by one run.

His cricketing heroes include Allan Border and Kepler Wessels.

Taylor proves that even heroes are human; because his wildest dream is playing golf with Jack Nicklaus and Greg Norman in the afternoon, followed by dinner with Mrs Taylor.

The last bit brings out the man in him.

SPORTS TALK



Michael Atherton (England captain) is time to go home and after a long winter.

On his future plans after a humiliating World Cup campaign.

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-29

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Mar 15, 1996)

- 1. In the first round of World Cup 1996, Zimbabwean leg-spinner Paul Strang captured 11 wickets in 12 wickets. 13 wickets.
2. The highest total scored in an innings in one-day internationals is 360, 375, 398.
3. South African Jonty Rhodes also represents his country in Hockey, Rugby, Football.
4. Umpire David Shepherd is from New Zealand, Australia, England.
5. Gary Kirsten is the brother of -Kirsten, Peter, Robert, Stefan.

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

Jansher chases 5th British Open

CARDIFF, Mar 11: Jansher Khan, the Pakistan who is attempting to become the greatest squash player in history, has been seeded to win his fifth successive British Open which starts in two weeks' time, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old from Peshawar emerged from the shadow of his legendary namesake: Jahangir Khan four months ago in Nicosia, when Jansher equalled the six World Cup Open titles achieved by his retired compatriot.

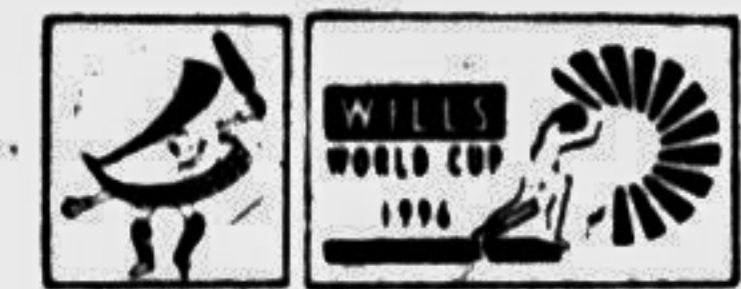
Jansher is unlikely ever to break the record of 10 British Open titles Jahangir achieved, but he feels that by achieving six (matching Jahangir's six World Opens) and by extending his record of World Opens to 10, he will be recognised as Jahangir's equal.

Winning this British Open will therefore bring Jansher within sight of one of his two major targets. "If I can stay clear of injury, God willing, I believe I can do it," he said.

However, the Test this year will be particularly unusual as for the first time since the game went open a decade and a half ago there have been no major build-up tournaments. This reflects the economic hard times from which squash in Europe has been suffering, and requires the leading players in particular to adapt. "It places even more importance on the work Jansher does in preparation," said manager Sander Bajava.

Jansher may be assisted by the fact that he has no obvious rivals, even though it makes complacency his prime enemy. The number two seed is Rodney Eyles of Australia, who failed to reach the final of the World Open.

Windies burst SA bubble



KARACHI, Mar 11: Brilliant Brian Lara and the West Indies' unheralded spinners teamed up to destroy South Africa's World Cup dream here today and complete a fairytale reversal, reports AFP.

Richie Richardson's calypso kings interrupted a bitter war to turn their guns on one of the tournament's hot tips and win the quarterfinal clash by 19 runs.

Man-of-the-match Lara's 111 off just 94 balls launched the Caribbean side to 264 for eight before part-time twacker Jimmy Adams and veteran Roger Harper - who took three wickets in a killer four balls - sliced through the South African order.

It was an extraordinary upset - especially after Richardson, team manager Wes Hall and coach Andy Roberts were told they would be sacked at the end of the tournament after a defeat against the qualifiers from Kenya.

Richardson, whose side had bounced back unexpectedly to beat Australia in their last group match, was not in the mood for consoling words. "All I can say to the South Africans is tough luck. We all know it's do or die and somebody had to go - that's how it is."

Cronje responded: "We are very disappointed about good luck to Richardson in the next round. The difference today was Brian Lara. I was very proud of every single one of my side today."

Richardson's side now take on Australia in the semifinals. "I would like to congratulate the guys for having played so well in the last two games despite all that's been said and happened," Richardson said. "We came out of almost a bottomless pit to beat probably two of the best two teams in the world. It shows great character."

And he had particular praise for Lara, who was accused of a racist remark towards the South Africans before the game, an accusation he had denied.

"He has been under a lot of pressure and it was only when he hit the first four that he relaxed," said Richardson. "Me? The only time I relax is when the fat lady sings and she's nowhere around at the moment."

The incredible turnaround was perfectly encapsulated by one over, the 41st, from off-spinner Harper.

Harper had Jonty Rhodes caught in the deep at mid-wicket with his first ball, trapped Brian McMillan lbw with the next and then went full-length to catch Steve Pollock in his own bowling.

Four wickets fell for 12 runs, the South Africans slumped to 198 for seven and suddenly Richardson men, after months of bitter feuding among themselves, were smiling, slapping each other on the shoulders and high-fiving their way into the last four as South Africa were dismissed for 245.

Adams - not South Africa's highly-rated Paul but the Caribbean side's Jimmy - had earlier removed Andrew Hudson, Daryll Cullinan and Hansie Cronje.

He also took two catches and finished with bowling figures of three for 53 while Harper claimed four for 47.

The South Africans, after winning all five of their group games, were left hollow-eyed as all their meticulous planning counted for nothing.

They never looked the part at the Karachi National Stadium. Gambling on two spinners and leaving out pace spearhead Allan Donald, it was they who fell to the spinners themselves. Even their renowned fielding was error-

strewn, with countless misfields and two catches going down.

Upset by pinch-hitter Courtney Browne, who helped put on 42 before he fell in the sixth over, they suddenly found themselves under pressure for the first time in the Cup.

Shivnarine Chandernagor, with a well-crafted 56, kept Lara company while he produced his first masterpiece of the tournament.

The highlight came, Lara cracked Pat Symcox's off-spin for five boundaries in six balls, finding spaces on the offside as Cronje desperately shifted his field.

When Chandernagor fell, 180 were on the board after only 30 overs but suddenly six

holed out to Keith Arthurton at deep midwicket. At 186 for four, the game was over. McMillan went tamely. Pat Symcox thrashed a few sixes in a defiant 24 but the West Indies had already started celebrating.

SCOREBOARD

World Cup quarterfinal, scoreboard between South Africa and West Indies at Karachi Monday.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes names like Chandernagor, Lara, Symcox, Cronje, Harper, Adams.



UNITY AT LAST! Skipper Richie Richardson (R) and Brian Lara put aside the personal differences as they plot the next move during West Indies' quarterfinal against South Africa in Karachi yesterday.

wickets tumbled 50 runs as the South Africans fought back. Symcox appeared to have turned the game, first having an out-of-sports Richardson caught at deep midwicket, then getting Lara as he topped-edged a sweep off the 35-year-old to a delighted Shaun Pollock in the deep.

But Lara said the West Indies always felt it was a good total. "The guys realised if we could get the target to over six and over than they would have a fight on their hands and it would be tough for them."

So it proved. South Africa's batsmen, cut down to five specialists to cater for west spinner Adams, always looked tentative in reply.

They were always straggling after Gary Kirsten unluckily trod on his wicket facing Curly Ambrose with the score on 21.

Andrew Hudson, bowled off an Ian Bishop no-ball and surviving a sharp stumping chance and run-out, helped put on 98 with Daryll Cullinan. But when he went, lofting Adams to Courtney Walsh at long-on, the game swung towards Richardson's heroes.

Cullinan skied Adams to long-off to make it 140 for three, leaving Cronje as his side's last chance. With 15 overs to go, 101 were still needed but he failed to get over an Adams delivery and

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes names like Bishop, Ambrose, Cronje, Adams, Pollock, Symcox, Richardson, Harper, Cullinan, Hudson, Arthurton, McMillan.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes names like Mathews, McMillan, Pollock, Symcox, Cronje, Adams.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes names like Hudson, Walsh, Kirsten, Pollock, Cronje, Richardson, Harper, Follock, Poirer, Poirer, Poirer, Poirer.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes names like Poirer, Walsh, Bishop, Harper, Adams, Arthurton.

Result: West Indies won by 19 runs. Man-of-the-match: Brian Lara

AUSSIE NZ SCORECARD

World Cup quarterfinal scoreboard between Australia and New Zealand at Madras Monday.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes names like Spearman, Healy, Fleming, Gernon, McMillan, Harris, Bevan, Cairns, Waugh, Parore, Thomson, Patel, Extras.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes names like Taylor, Gernon, Parore, M. Waugh, Ponting, Thomson, Warner, Astle, Law, Extras.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes names like Reffel, Fleming, McGrath, M. Waugh, S. Waugh, Bevan, S. Waugh.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes names like Taylor, Gernon, Parore, M. Waugh, Ponting, Thomson, Warner, Astle, Law, Extras.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes names like Reffel, Fleming, McGrath, M. Waugh, S. Waugh, Bevan, S. Waugh.

Result: Australia win by six wickets. Man-of-the-match: Mark Waugh.

Tension takes its tolls!

CALCUTTA, Mar 11: Two Indian supporters died of heart attacks here while watching their cricket team defeating arch-rivals Pakistan in the World Cup quarterfinal in Bangalore, newspapers reported today, reports AFP.

The Telegraph and other regional dailies, quoting police reports, said 72-year-old social activist Ganapati A Basu collapsed before his television set in Midnapore.

Stores and businesses in the eastern Indian city closed down following Basu's death.

Retired government official Nikunja Deb also died on Saturday while watching the game on television. The newspapers said his last words were: "We have to win at any cost."

Nilima Singh, a government physician said, "I hope we win the semifinal against Sri Lanka on Wednesday, or else we would have had a rash of deaths here."

Cricket and school doesn't go together

CALCUTTA, Mar 11: Teachers and parents are worried about a clash between Wednesday's World Cup semifinal between India and Sri Lanka and school exams, reports AFP.

"The exams have already begun and the World Cup is heating up... it is our single biggest worry," said teacher Nikhil Barua.

At least two parents' associations have urged the All-India Board of Secondary Examinations to put off the exams until the end of World Cup on Saturday.

"Our appeals have fallen on deaf ears," said Barua, a father to two teenage students. More than 120,000 children across India are to take part in this year's tests.

Saturday's game between India and Pakistan saw tens of thousands of Calcutta teenagers abandon their books ahead of today's chemistry tests to join victory marches across the city.

"This is madness," commented Barua. "The tests should have been held outside the World Cup timing. Even we cannot watch the matches now because of our children." Parents in Pakistan have also called for exams to be changed.

Sampras to play in Japan Open

TOKYO, Mar 11: Pete Sampras will return to Tokyo's Ariake Coliseum, where he became world number one for the first time in 1993, for the Japan Open starting April 15, reports AFP.

The US star won the 1993 title and beat fellow-American Michael Chang in the 1994 final. Sampras and Chang are the top two seeds in the million-dollar men's field, which also includes Thomas Enqvist of Sweden, Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, and Australia's doubles number one pair Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge.

Waiting a riveting war



CALCUTTA, Mar 11: Almost 100,000 spectators will gather at Calcutta's Eden Gardens on Wednesday praying India can ride out the Sri Lankan batting cyclone which has destroyed every World Cup bowling attack in its path so far, reports Reuter.

The whirling blades of Sanath Jayasuriya, Aravinda de Silva and company have already carried Sri Lanka to their first World Cup semifinal, sweeping England aside in Saturday's quarterfinal with brutal force.

The Sri Lankan batsmen gave India a hint of what to expect when they met in their Group A match in New Delhi just over a week ago. Jayasuriya and Ramesh Kaluwitharana blazied their way through the early overs to set up a six-wicket win with eight balls to spare.

Sri Lanka's record one-day international total of 398 for five against Kenya also served as a dire warning to the Indian attack, who with the exception

of leg-spinner Anil Kumble have not proved immune to heavy punishment on their home grounds.

But the successful Sri Lankan World Cup strategy of chasing targets with cavalier disregard for normal one-day conventions has still to be proven in one vital situation which applies on Wednesday night.

Under floodlights, all the evidence of the this tournament has supported the theory that the side batting second are at a considerable disadvantage. Prior to the Madras quarter-final between Australia and New Zealand only West Indies had bucked the day-night trend at Zimbabwe's expense in Hyderabad.

Even then, West Indies merely needed to overhaul a modest total of 151 for nine. India's games against Australia in Bangalore, a 39-run victory, appear a more accurate indicator of what life is like for the night-shift on the sub-continent.

Mohammad Azharuddin may feel batting first on what he describes as his 'favourite

ground' is still India's best bet despite the New Delhi mauling, but England captain Mike Atherton found that containing Sri Lanka is easier in theory than practice.

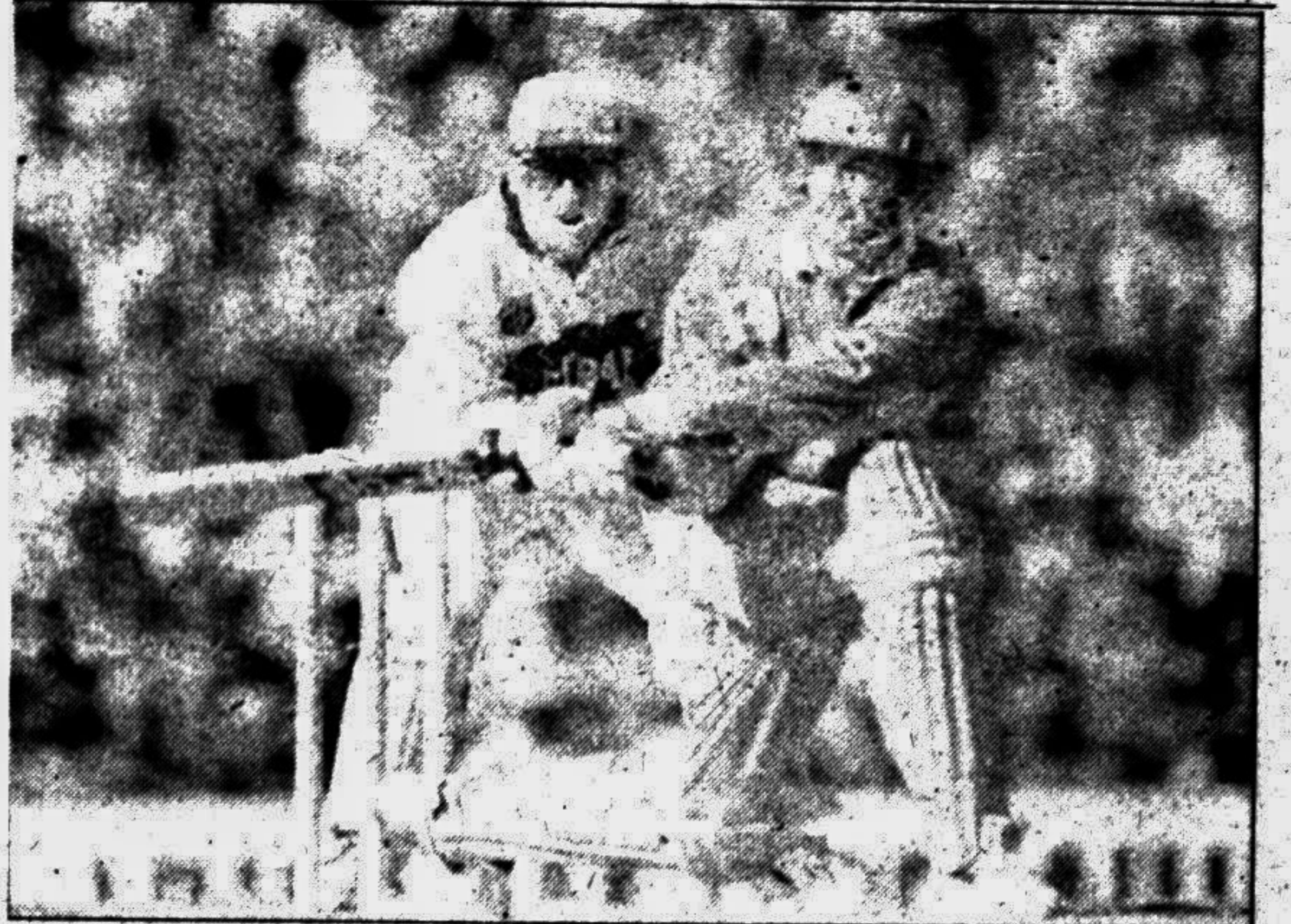
"When you have someone like Jayasuriya playing against you, any total becomes smaller," said Atherton, reflecting on the opener's 44-ball innings of 82 which threatened to eclipse the record fastest one-day hundred off 63 balls set by Azharuddin.

As India have a relatively strong batting line-up as well, the Calcutta record 50-over total of 279 for seven established by Pakistan in 1989-90 may well come under threat if the pitch is true.

Inflated black market ticket prices underline that Calcutta cricket fans expect to witness nothing less than an Indian home victory.

Hundreds of fans turned up at Calcutta airport on Sunday to welcome their heroes, only to discover they were not flying in until Monday lunchtime.

Sri Lanka, also late arrivals, could disappoint them a second time.



HOSTILE HARRIS: New Zealand all-rounder Chris Harris, sweeps on his way to a swashbuckling 130 during yesterday's quarterfinal fixture against Australia. Harris' efforts, however, went in vain as Australia romped home with six-wickets standing.

Azhar's heaven in Eden



Azhar said, "Every player has a favourite ground. But the Eden Gardens is more than that for me. I am glad we are playing the semifinal there."

India have also won all the five one-day internationals under Azharuddin's leadership at the Eden Gardens.

His Sri Lankan opposite number Arjuna Ranatunga knows Azharuddin's special chemistry with the stadium, having played - and lost - the Asia Cup final there in 1990 by seven wickets.

In 1993, Sachin Tendulkar bowled a tense final over to help India squeak past South Africa by two runs in the Hero Cup semifinal. Two days later, India won the tournament with an emphatic 102-run victory

over the West Indies as leg-spinner Anil Kumble finished with a career-best six for 12.

In 1994, Azharuddin's men thrashed the West Indies again by 72 runs to win a triangular one-day series.

Azharuddin wants to exploit the home advantage to the hilt. "It's never easy for foreign teams to play in Calcutta," Azharuddin added. "They seem to be overawed by the charged atmosphere to us, it seems the entire world is backing us. It lifts your spirits."

Even 100,000 seats will not be enough to meet demand in this sports-loving eastern metropolis, whose residents have just three sessions - fish, cricket and football.

Black marketers are doing roaring business ahead of Wednesday's match, selling tickets worth 300 rupees (59 dollars) for 2,000 rupees (58 dollars). "There's great demand for tickets, we were sold out long time ago, even before it was known the India and Sri Lanka will be playing here," an official of the host Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) said.

Maheshwar Sahu, the Den Gardens head groundsman, said the ground had been specially prepared. "We are making a pitch factory-ready for the Indian batsmen. We are also using light rollers to cut off the bounce," said Sahu, who has been tending the Eden Gardens ground for the past 20 years.

Inside a jaunty Jadeja



gn of 39 runs - then Jadeja lived up to his name as India's Jonty Rhodes with an exceptional fielding display and five overs of right-arm medium pace cutters for 19 runs.

Azharuddin said: "If I was asked to nominate a man-of-the-match, it would have been Jadeja. Not only did he bat superbly, he fielded very well, as always."

Jadeja, a diminutive 25-year-old right-hander, clubbed 45 off 25 balls at the death, smashing two sixes and four boundaries and taking 22 runs from 16 "four" balls. He was while tall-ender Anil Kumble applauded from the other end.

His spectacular onslaught helped India score 37 runs off the final four overs - the game was to be won by a mar-

however, he is a highly-valued exponent of the one-day game.

He also has an iron core behind that permanent smile. His World Cup began disastrously, as he was demoted down the order after making just a single as an opener against the West Indies and Australia. He did not get to bat in the run-rout against Sri Lanka. Yet he kept his head.

The turn came in the final group game against Zimbabwe when he hit a whirlwind 44 off 27 balls batting at six. To most people's surprise, he was nominated man-of-the-match ahead of century-maker Vinod Kambli.

Perhaps that made up for him missing out in Bangalore. For the Jamnagar-born player, however, his biggest honour to date came when his mentor and idol Kapil Dev hugged him warmly after the quarter final win.

He was also sought out by former dasher Krish Srikant and India's next cricket manager Sandeep Patil.

"Forget the award, the important thing was to contribute to India's win," said Jadeja. "I am happy I have done that in the last two games and want to continue in the semifinal."

Being pushed up and down the batting order has dogged Jadeja's career ever since he entered the international arena in 1992. He took his normal role as an opener in Australia, but was then kicked off of the side when all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar was asked to partner Tendulkar.

That Jadeja is still short of fulfilling himself is clear. While regularly playing in one-dayers, he has only a handful of Tests to his name.

He may have repaid India's gamble of going to Bangalore with just four specialist bowlers but his own bowling needs to develop for him to become a genuine multi-talented. That reserve set aside,



AJAY JADEJA

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword grid and solution key. Solution time: 20 mins. Includes words like Tonic, lingo, Sound of stock, Doorway, Past, Jaffe or Barrett, Hodgepodge, And, Emulate, Lindbergh, Welles, Importance, Bullwinkle, O.g., 22 Old woman's home, 24 Green-eyed monster, 25 Reluctant to change, 29 Expert, 30 Give a leg up, 31 Honest politician, 32 End, 34 Drilling, 35 Maybe.