

Column One DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT cricket was once an Olympic event; but only once. And, it was at the unlikely place of Paris. This was the 1900 Games.

SPORTS TALK



Mushtaq Ahmed (Pakistan's ace leg-spinner) 'Warne can turn the ball a long way but can't bowl a good line. On a turning track he has to bowl at the same pace because of his height. Maybe he can't buy his wickets. Kumble is more accurate and he has got a better incoming ball. You can't sweep him because his ball is tight. I am a little different since I can bowl the googly and the flipper. But make no mistake, both Kumble and Warne are very good bowlers.'

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 12 wickets 13 wickets

Mike wants Mandela at ringside

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Mar 13: Mike Tyson has invited South African President President Nelson Mandela to sit at ringside for his heavyweight title fight here Saturday against World Boxing Council champion Frank Bruno, reports AFP.

Tyson, in his third fight since being released from prison 50 weeks ago following a three-year prison stay for rape, called Mandela 'one of my few heroes.'

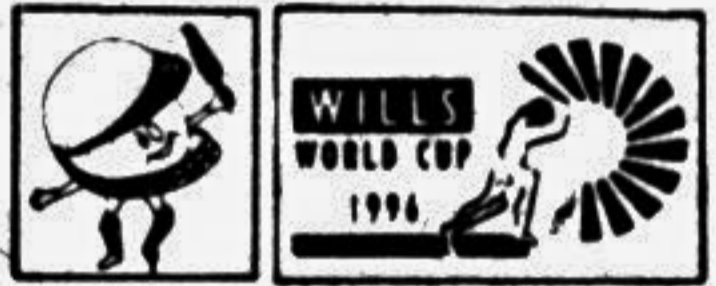
'I hope President Mandela will honour me by coming here as my special guest,' Tyson said. 'It would be a true thrill for me to be able to perform with him sitting in the front row.'

Already assured of being at ringside is another South African, Frans Botha, the reigning International Boxing Federation world champion. He kept the crown despite testing positive for steroids in a defense against Axel Schulz of Germany.



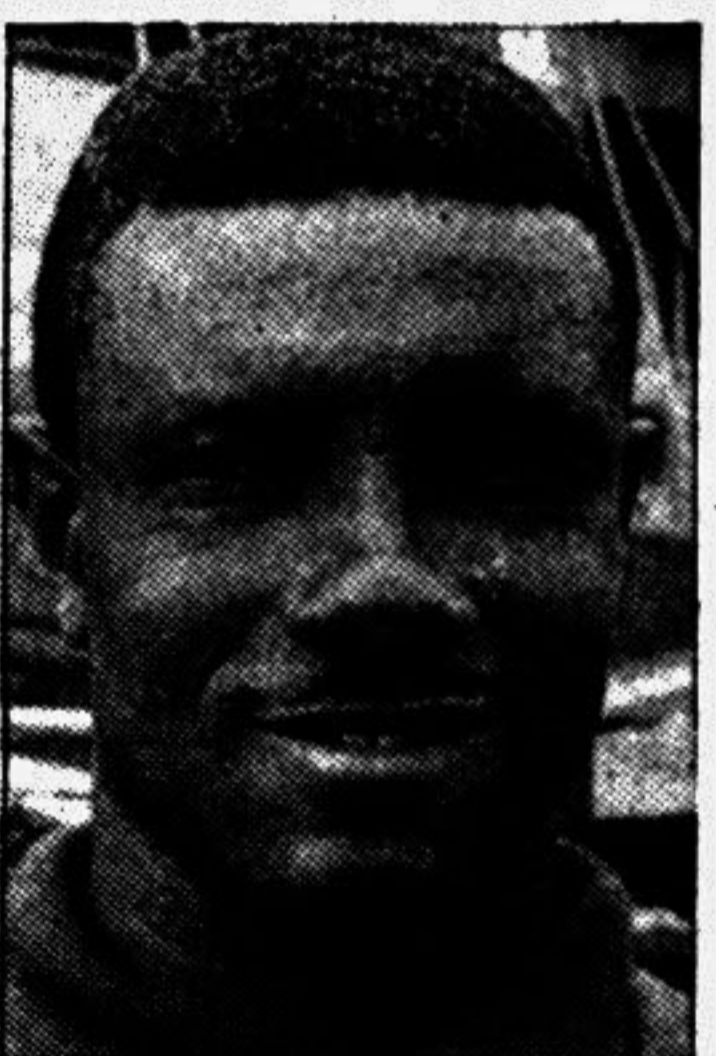
WOW! WHAT A WELCOME: Cricketing celebrity Brian Lara seen elated after being greeted with petals by two gracious Punjabi ladies, on his team's arrival at the Mount View Hotel, Chandigarh, on March 13.

Wi-Aussie tussle today



CHANDIGARH, India, Mar 13: West Indian skipper Richie Richardson, already consigned to the dustbin and the dole queue, chases an impossible World Cup dream against Australia here on Thursday, reports AFP.

An exhilarated Richardson will struggle to sleep tonight before the semifinal. He will not be the only one. The West Indies cricket chiefs, the men who told Richardson he would be



RICHIE RICHARDSON

sacked after the tournament, will also spend the night hours awake... Wide eyed with horror.

They face the greatest sporting humiliation on record after prematurely axing the captain, manager Wes Hall and coach Andy Roberts after the humiliating Group A defeat to the qualifiers from Kenya.

The prospect is now looming of Richardson - 'Age? 34. Profession? Unwanted cricket captain?' - picking up his first unemployment cheque with the world trophy tucked under his arm.

It would be no surprise to see egg-faced West Indies Cricket Board of Control off-

cially surreptitiously waving Australian flags on Thursday. The game is a match of champions, the West Indies winning in 1975 - against Australia - and 1979 - and reaching the 1983 final, the Australians taking the title in 1987.

Statistically, the West Indies have no chance of beating Mark Taylor's side - just as they had no chance of beating them in their earlier group encounter, no chance of qualifying for the second round and no chance of beating South Africa in the quarterfinals.

The figures, put simply, just do not add up. The side's batting line-up has tried three different opening combinations in five games. Just two top-order players are averaging over 30. Two others are making less than 20 per visit, while Keith Arthurton's record is a nightmare 1 against Zimbabwe, 0 against Kenya, 0 against Australia and 1 against South Africa. Roland Holder's two games give him an average of 2.5.

Even Brian Lara's return of 58.25 is less than stumping on pitches fine-turned for batsmen. Put another way, take Lara's 233 runs out of the equation and Australian Mark Waugh, with his 472 runs at 118 a visit, has scored more runs than the rest of the West Indies top-five batsmen put together during the event.

But return Lara to the calculations, backed up by pace trio Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Ian Bishop and Roger Harper's off-spin and suddenly an outside chance emerges of beating any side.

While paceman Ambrose is the side's key weapon - he is giving away just three runs an over, which is less than Shane Warne, while claiming eight wickets and rapping a series of batsmen's fingers - the 32-year-old Harper is the unheralded hero.

Australia must be concerned about the quality of their bowling attack after it was smashed all around the field by New Zealand's Lee Gernon and Chris Harris in a partnership of 168, a World Cup record for the fourth

wicket. Admittedly the pitch at Madras was a batsman's paradise, but then most one-day pitches are deliberately prepared that way. The worry for captain Mark Taylor must be that none of his bowlers maintained a consistent line and length.

Against that, a fired up West Indies pace attack is likely to give nothing away, especially in the early overs as Australia found in their last meeting. Harper, in particular as reason to look forward to March 17, the date of the Lahore final coinciding with his birthday.

TEAMS AUSTRALIA: Mark Taylor



MARK TAYLOR

(captain), Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Steve Waugh, Michael Bevan, Shane Lee, Stuart Law, Ian Healy, Glenn McGrath, Paul Raffel, Shane Warne, Michael Slater, Damne Fleming, Jason Gillespie.

WEST INDIES: Richie Richardson (captain), Sherwin Campbell, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams, Keith Arthurton, Roland Holder, Courtney Browne, Otis Gibson, Roger Harper, Ian Bishop, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Cameron Cuffy.

Match umpires: Srinives Venkatraghavan (India) BC Cooray (Sri Lanka) match referee VK Ramaswamy (India).

Call of the calypso spirit

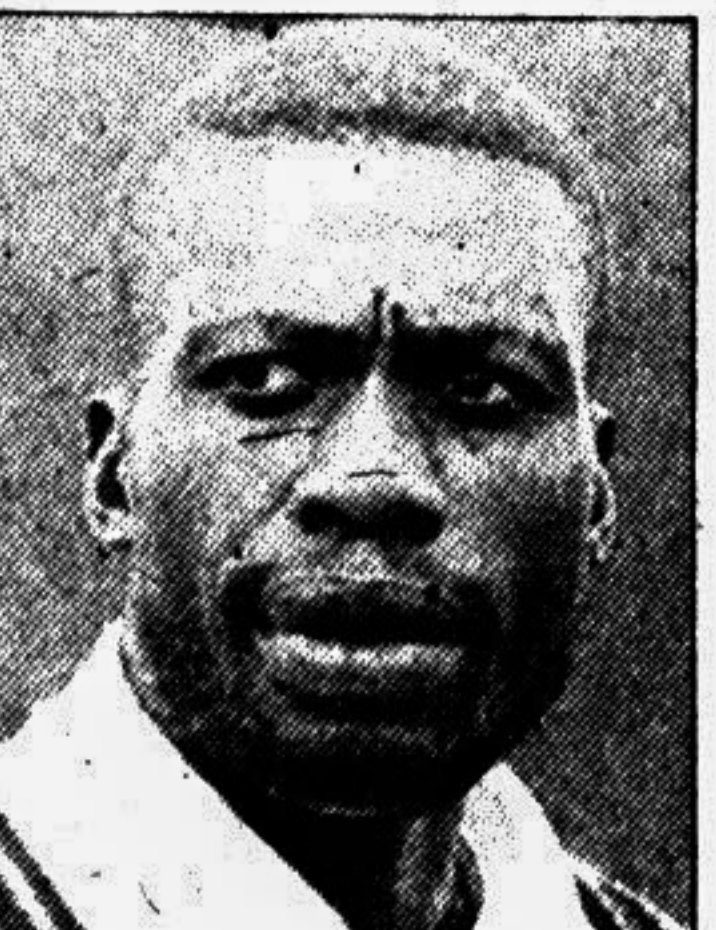
By Lenin Gani

Richardson has said the only time he will only relax is when the fat lady sings. Let's hope she doesn't start just yet because winning the cup is essentially the last chance for senior players like Ambrose, Walsh, and Harper to bow out in style.



RICHIE RICHARDSON is two victories away from fulfilling a final ambition - lifting the sixth World Cup as captain.

This will be a fitting farewell gift for the 34-year-old Antiguan who announced his intention to step down after the March 17 final. Richardson has always tried to instill some semblance of



CURTLY AMBROSE

order and respectability to his brilliant but volatile crew during his often stormy tenure at the helm.

The West Indies' route to the last four has been a roller-coaster one. They opened their campaign with a rousing six-wicket defeat of Zimbabwe at Hyderabad.

The next encounter was billed as Lara verses Tendulkar. Tendulkar stole the show for India after Lara

flopped and his team too in a low-scoring affair. Any other day the game against minnows Kenya would have been a foregone conclusion. But the result which is history now, proved to be a blessing in disguise. It acted as a wake up call for the sleepy Caribbean giants.

The changes off the pitch certainly had done the trick and in the 'do or die' game against Australia Richardson led from the front with a heroic knock of 93. He combined well with Lara who upto now was having a quiet time in the sub-continent. However, Lara being the player he is did produce the goods when it mattered. Of course, we should not forget the spell-binding session of fast bowling by Ambrose and Walsh. They were ably-assisted by some excellent fielding.

The men from Down Under faced by such a proposition buckled under pressure. Each member of Richardson's team deserved a medal. When was the last time one saw for every catch taken, run saved spontaneous outbursts of emotion.

On to Karachi's National Stadium and a quarterfinal date with tournament pace-setters South Africa. Not even coach Bob Woolmer's laptop and captain Hansie Cronje's careful calculations, that worked wonders against holders Pakistan, could halt the Caribbean juggernaut.

Richardson's ploy of using wicketkeeper Courtney Browne as a pinch-hitter paid off. His partner at the other end Shivnarine Chanderpaul was holding the fort well. At least the problem with their opening combination has been

solved. Their quickfire stand was instrumental in upsetting the South-Africans' equilibrium. As this World Cup has shown time and again a team only requires one good partnership where one batsman gets a century and the other man a fifty-plus score and they should be on their way.

Lara with 111, his maiden Cup hundred and Chanderpaul's 56 in a second wicket stand 138 did just that. The South Africans after a solid start of their own, fell away in the slog overs due



COURTNEY WALSH

mainly this time to some rejuvenated spin bowling and spirited fielding.

Richardson has said the only time he will only relax is when the fat lady sings. Let's hope she doesn't start just yet because winning the cup is essentially the last chance for senior players like Ambrose, Walsh, and Harper to bow out in style. It is now time to deliver.

SL-INDIA SCORECARD

World Cup semi-final score-board between India and Sri Lanka in Calcutta Wednesday:

Table with columns for Sri Lanka players and their scores. Jayasuriya c Prasad b Srinath 1, Kaluwitharana c Manjrekar b Srinath 0, Gurusinha c Kumble b Srinath 0, De Silva b Kumble 66, Mahanama ret'd hurt 58, Ranatunga lbw b Tendulkar 35, Tilakaratne c Tendulkar b Prasad 32, Dharmasena b Tendulkar 9, Vaas run out 23, Wickremasinghe not out 4, Muralitharan not out 5, Extras b-1, lb-10, w-4, nb-2 21, Total (8 wks) 251, Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-1; 3-35; 4-85; 5-168; 6-206; 7-236; 8-244.

Table with columns for India players and their scores. Tendulkar st Kaluwitharana b Jayasuriya 65, Srinath c Jayasuriya b Vaas 3, Manjrekar b Jayasuriya 25, Asharudin c and b Dharmasena 0, Kamli not out 10, Srinath run out 6, Jadeja b Jayasuriya 0, Mongia c Jayasuriya b De Silva 1, Kapoor c De Silva b Muralitharan 0, Kumble not out 0, Extras (lb-5, w-5) 10, Total (8 wks) 120.

Did not bat: V. Prasad. Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-98; 3-99; 4-101; 5-110; 6-115; 7-120; 8-120.

Table with columns for bowling performance. Wickremasinghe 5 0 24 0, Vaas 6 1 23 1, Muralitharan 7 1 0 29 1, Dharmasena 7 0 24 1, Jayasuriya 7 1 12 3, De Silva 2 0 3 1.

Result: Sri Lanka awarded match because of crowd violence. Man-of-the-match: Aravinda de Silva.

TODAY'S VENUE

CHANDIGARH: The city Chandigarh lies in the valley surrounded by the hills that hem the Great Himalayas. The capital of both Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh is the only Indian city to have been designed and planned by a single architect - LeCorbusier.

The city, a model of wide roads and spacious residential colonies is an excellent base for specialised sightseeing.

The newly constructed Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in the suburb of Mohali hosted a Test match against the West Indies in 1994. Has been equipped with floodlights for the today's World Cup semifinal match between West Indies and Australia.

NEW DELHI, Mar 13: Former Indian Test star Bishan Bedi today pleaded with Pakistanis to spare their cricket team for the World Cup quarter-final defeat against India, reports AFP.

Bedi pleads for peace

'For Allah's sake, let us all endeavour to accept sport as it should be,' Bedi, one of cricket's greatest spinners, wrote in the Pioneer here.

'Winning and losing in part of the game. Let me assure you that if India loses, Ganeges will not be on fire. And now that Pakistan has lost, River Indus will not stop flowing.'

Bedi's comments came after reports that injured Pakistani captain Wasim Akram's house was stoned in Lahore, amid allegations of bribery and a case had been filed against the team.

'Please try to treat our sports people as honest men of character and integrity,' Bedi wrote. 'All these provocative probes of the political kind will do no good to goodwill of humanity in the sub-continent.'

Bedi led India on a path-breaking tour of Pakistan in 1978, the first between the two arch-rivals in 14 years.

He struck up a good rapport with former Pakistani President Zia-ul-Haq on that trip where Pakistan, led by Bedi's former Northamptonshire colleague Mushtaq Mohammad, won the three-Test series 2-0.

The reaction in Pakistan to Saturday's 39-run defeat has stung many in India as well.

'I can't believe what they are doing to poor Akram and the others,' wrote Rajesh Johri in a letter to the Pioneer.

'I doubt if the reaction would have been as severe if India had lost. We should know, because Pakistan has beaten India more often than we have,' he wrote.

Boris ready for Davis Cup

BONN, Mar 13: Boris Becker should be back for Germany's Davis Cup quarter-final against France next month, reports AFP.

'I've talked to Boris and I think he'll play,' team captain Niki Pilić said Tuesday. However, Michael Stich, only able to play the doubles in the first round win over Switzerland in January after an ankle operation, is unlikely to be fit for the April 5-7 tie at Limoges.

The contrasting charmers



MOHALI, India, Mar 13: Two batsmen of contrasting styles but equally proven match winning ability line up against each other for what could be a fascinating duel in the second World Cup semifinal on Thursday, reports Reuter.

In the maroon corner there is Brian Lara, West Indies sublime strokeplayer and holder of the highest individual score for Test and first-class cricket. In the yellow corner is Australia's Mark Waugh, who has already scored three centuries and the most runs in a World Cup tournament.

After a somewhat subdued start in the opening matches, Lara moved into top gear with a dashing half-century in West Indies' final Group A game against Australia.

He then topped that by plundering the second fastest World Cup century to spur West Indies to victory over the strongly fancied South Africans in Monday's quarterfinal. His 100 in Karachi took just one ball more than Clive

Lloyd's 82-ball century for West Indies in the 1975 final. A few hours later in the Indian coastal city of Madras, Waugh was not to be outdone as he hammered a century to help Australia overcome a brave challenge by New Zealand - although he needed 20 more balls than Lara to reach three figures.

Waugh's 110, just one run in five matches, one more than the previous record set by England's Graham Gooch in the 1987 World Cup.

Where Lara was attached almost from the start against South Africa, Waugh blended caution with discreet stroke-play before finally opening up towards the end of his innings as Australia battled to better a testing target set by New Zealand.

'Of the three centuries, it's probably the best because it was made under the pressure of this being a knock-out match,' said Waugh.

Each can be expected to play in his own fashion when the two sides meet in Mohali, just outside the Punjab state capital of Chandigarh, on Thursday.

But where Waugh has been supported by solid performances by Australia's other batsmen, the West Indian middle-order has shown an alarming tendency to disintegrate. Even in beating South Africa, they almost threw away the advantage Lara had given them by losing five wickets in the space of 20 runs.

Failure by Lara would seem to leave West Indies vulnerable. Failure by Waugh is more likely to be compensated for by one of his teammates.

Waugh under full moon

prised to have scored three hundreds.

The New South Welshman has rubbed in his supremacy by the ease with which he has accumulated it. While closest rival Sachin Tendulkar regularly resorts to hitting in the air, most of Waugh's runs come from risk-free, classical strokes.

Waugh has clearly come a long way since the 1992 Cup. After making his debut the previous year - six years after his brother - he played five World Cup innings, made a top score of 66 not out with an average of 37.

His medium pacers were so lowly regarded then that he bowled just five overs in all tournament.

This time he has bowled 38 overs of off-spin in five matches - Steve's medium pacers, affected by a series of shoulder injuries, have been called up for just 21 - and also outdone his twin by taking five wickets - including those of Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara, and being more economical.

If the docile wickets have helped him as a batsman, then by the same argument they must have counted against him as a bowler, which makes his emergence as a spinner the more remarkable. Clearly there are now two all-rounders in the Waugh family.

Border to hang up his bat

SYDNEY, Mar 13: World record Test run scorer, Allan Border, who retired from the international arena in 1994, said today he was retiring from all cricket at the end of this season, reports Reuter.

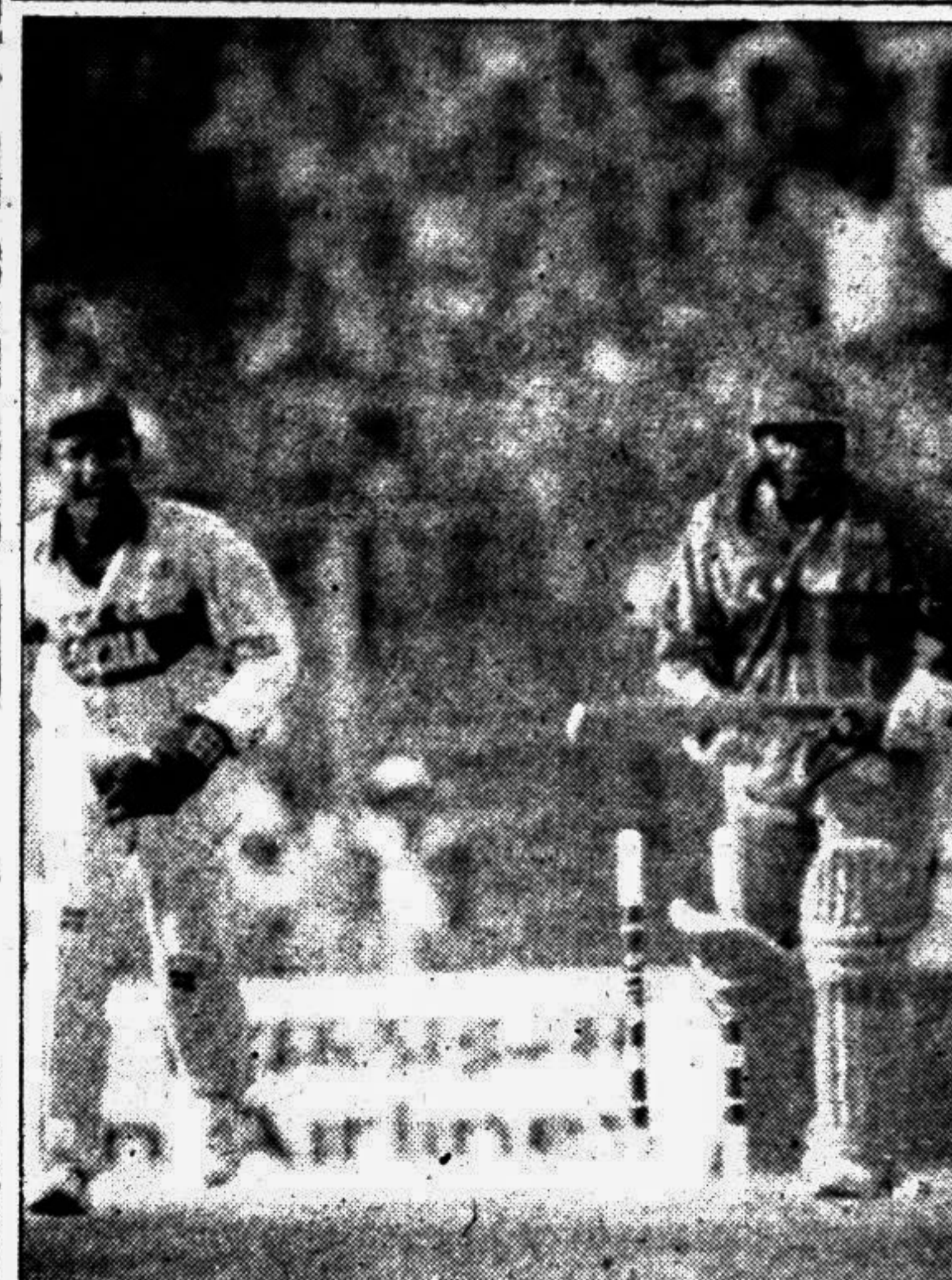
'I've really enjoyed myself but now time is up,' Border said in a television interview. Border, 40, who holds world records for the most Test match appearances, runs and catches, last year fulfilled an ambition by helping state side Queensland to its first triumph in the Sheffield Shield competition.

The left-hanger, who started his first-class career with new South Wales, had a Test career spanning 156 Test matches, including 93 as captain, in which he scored 11,174 runs at an average of 50.56 he took 165 Test catches.

'Super Eagles' Atlanta bound

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 13: Nigeria may be barred from the African Nations Cup and in danger of missing the World Cup, but only a football miracle can prevent them qualifying for the 1996 Olympic Games, reports AFP.

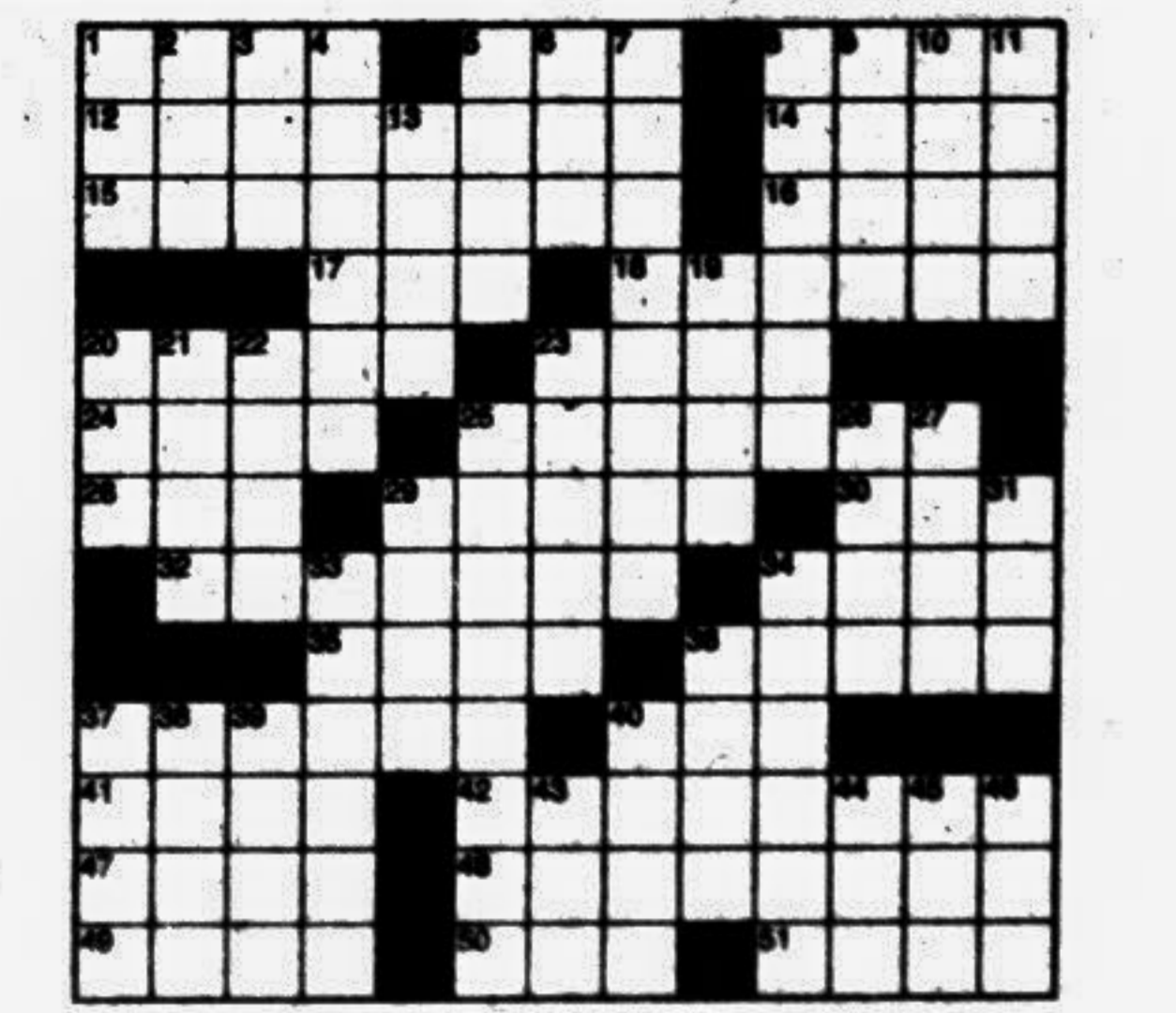
After winning 1-0 in Zimbabwe this month, the star-studded West Africans need just a draw at home this weekend to clinch one of the three berths reserved for Africa in the United States.



BOWLED BUT WITH A COST: Aravinda de Silva departs - bowled Anil Kumble - after laying the foundation for Sri Lanka's formidable total of 251 against India in the semifinal at Calcutta yesterday. De Silva blasted a scintillating 66.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 So bad babies 3 Swab 23 Containers for pigs? 5 It's good 36 It's enough 6 Black, to birds 25 Pet 8 Listening device? 37 LA, style of 26 Ostrich-like bird 9 Morse 40 Doc's cue 7 Per-formed 27 It's coasted in album 12 Out as a button 41 Formerly 8 Advertis 28 Brails 14 Send forth 42 Made his 9 Mr. Shaz 31 Infirmit- 16 Mythical 47 Stunk's defense 10 Public's man 32 Ex- 18 Crimeon Tide, for short 48 Italian dessert 11 Luminary War hero 34 You can see them with your eyes closed 19 Eruptive 50 - out a 19 Eventual 46 Longpa 20 Alphabetic 1 Upper 21 Informa- 46 Longpa 21 Informa- 22 Dowle 2 Fuss 22 Sketched 36 Greek letter 37 Santa's runway 28 Making a name for yourself? 38 "... can't get up" 29 Ham's meat 30 Counter-lets 39 "Please explain" 40 Turned 41 Longpa 21 Informa- 42 Longpa 21 Informa- 43 Opposite of st 44 Opposite of st 45 Some 46 Longpa 21 Informa- 47 Longpa 21 Informa- 48 Longpa 21 Informa- 49 Longpa 21 Informa- 50 Longpa 21 Informa-



CRYPTOQUIP 19HV-AUPHSD JSHVNC JZHTKPBOD JQRHUQ HN ANZRSHUC JBU: U-ZJKO TNOJ. Saturday's Cryptiquip: WHAT DO YOU CALL A FUNNY, SUCCESSFUL TIRE SALESMAN? MISTER WHEELER-DEALER. Today's Cryptiquip clue: T equals Z. The Cryptiquip 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.