

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT ignorance is bliss. While tobacco advertisement is banned in most countries, cigarette companies have been keeping alive their brands by sponsoring some of the biggest sporting events. But, often they have failed to put across their message to the innocent (or ignorant)! Take for example, the case of US tennis star Pam Shriver. She says, "I played in Virginia Slims tournaments for ten years without knowing that it was a tobacco company". Slim chance anyone will believe her. Pam's words make me shiver.

SPORTS TALK



Thomas Muster

(Austrian tennis super star) "I am not number one, that is just the way it is, but still the ranking is there. I don't think I have to apologise that the ranking is like that. And I said, I am not playing that level at the moment on this surface."

After losing his Lipton Championship second round match to Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela last week in Key Biscayne.



COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-32 Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. April 5, 1996)

- In the 1996 World Cup, Zimbabwe were led by: Andy Flower, Great Flower, Robert Flower
- The first century in the 1996 World Cup was scored by: Nathan Aspin, Lee Germon, Alan Parore
- The 1996 European soccer championship will be held in: Denmark, Germany, England
- Sri Lankan cricket team is sponsored by: Panasonic, Sony, Singer
- In the Singer Cup Pakistan will be led by: Salim Malik, Aamir Sohail, Ijaz Ahmed

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

Seles skips Hilton Head tourney

SARASOTA, Florida, Mar 30: Co-world number one Monica Seles has pulled out of next week's Family Circle Cup tournament in Hilton Head, still suffering from a nagging shoulder injury she sustained during the Australian Open, reports Reuter.

"Every week, I hope my left shoulder will be better, so that I can serve, but it's still not in good enough shape for me to compete," said the 22-year-old left hander, who won her fourth Australian Open title in January playing hurt.

Doctors have diagnosed the injury as tendinitis of the left shoulder and a small tear of the lining of the shoulder socket.

The Hilton Head event marks the third consecutive tournament from which Seles has been forced to withdraw. She also pulled out of Indian Wells earlier this month and the Lipton Championships, which conclude this weekend.

Both those events could have been the scene of the first meeting Seles and co-number one Steffi Graf since the US Open final won by the German last September.

Hilton Head is a wonderful place and a great tournament and I was really counting on competing this year," disappointed Seles said in a statement issued by her publicist on Friday.

The tournament and the tour have been very supportive and I hope to return very soon," she said.

Kiwis fly on Fleming wings



S FLEMING

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 30: A brilliant maiden century from middle-order batsman Stephen Fleming led New Zealand to a thrilling four-wicket victory with one ball to spare on Friday in the second one-day cricket international against the West Indies, report agencies.

Fleming's unbeaten 106 off 108 balls guided the visitors to their victory target of 239 off the penultimate ball. It was an early birthday present for the stylish lanky left-hander, the youngest member of his team, who turns 23 on Monday. He hit seven fours and one six, a disdainful whip over mid-wicket off fast bowler Ian Bishop.

The win, New Zealand's first in seven matches in the Caribbean and only their third over the West Indies in 22 contests, leveled the five-match series to 1-1.

"It's a good relief to get a hundred at last," said Fleming, whose century was his first in international cricket since he came into the New Zealand team as a 21-year-old with high expectations during the 1993-94 season against India.

"It takes a bit of pressure off from the media and from myself," Fleming added. "And it's good to get a win for New Zealand."

Fleming shared two crucial partnerships with his Canterbury teammates Chris Cairns and Chris Harris after the West Indies had reduced New Zealand to 71 for four in the 16th over.

First, he added a record 92 with Cairns as the two gradually brought New Zealand back into the match. The stand beat the previous fifth-wicket record of 61 for New Zealand against the West Indies, set by Dipak Patel and Jeremy Coney in Christchurch in 1985.

Cairns, in his 46th match, passed 1,000 runs on his way to 41 off 69 balls with three fours.

When Cairns was bowled by part-time spinner Jimmy Adams, Harris provided the now fluent Fleming with excellent support.

The left-handers added a further 67 for the sixth wicket, another record for New Zealand against the West Indies, in just 13 overs to put the visitors within nine of victory.

But when Harris was bowled, Fleming and Patel spent a few anxious moments before Fleming collected the two needed off Curtly Ambrose's penultimate delivery.

Roger Harper, with one for 28 off 10 overs, was the best West Indian bowler, though Ambrose and his fast bowling colleague and captain Courtney Walsh each took two wickets.

The West Indies' total had been built around half cen-

tures from middle-order batsmen Roland Holder and Jimmy Adams.

The two added 91 for the fifth wicket, another record between the teams, after the West Indies had stuttered to 119 for four in the 34th over.

Holder, a 28-year-old Barbadian in his 22nd international, recorded a career-best 65 off just 48 balls with six fours and a six. Jamaica's Adams, also 28, was more circumspect, but his unbeaten 59 was just as important. The left-hander faced 93 deliveries



S FLEMING

with a six as his only boundary. Phil Simmons also played his part in the West Indies comeback. The 32-year-old Trinidadian, in his 113th international, made a disciplined 45 and added 77 in 123 balls with Adams before Holder's aggression.

New Zealand had started well as captain Lee Germon sent in the home team after winning the toss.

The visitors restricted the West Indies to 42 for three after 13 overs with both openers and prize left-hander Brian Lara back in the pavilion.

But the middle-order, so often the cause of the West Indies' problems in the past, produced the goods this time.

BFF in Nagoya dilemma

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is yet to decide about Bangladesh's participation in the 7th Asian Youth (Under-16) championship, scheduled to begin in the Japanese city of Nagoya from April 27.

The BFF, in an emergency meeting yesterday failed to reach any conclusion regarding the matter, but decided to meet again on April 5.

Earlier, the BFF had called 70 booters to prepare a team for the meet, but with the country caught in the walter of restive political disturbance, the German coach Otto Pfister failed to hold practice even for a single day.

It is widely speculated that BFF, the governing body of local football, will opt to skip the tourney. In that case BFF may be fined US 5000 dollars by the organisers. And sports observers in the country believe that the BFF would be wise to decide in not sending a team to Nagoya considering our lack of preparation.

Windies need 220 to win

West Indies were set to score 220 to win against New Zealand in their third one-day international in port of Spain yesterday, according to Star Sports.

Winning the toss, New Zealand decided to bat and collected 219 for eight in their stipulated 50 overs.

WEST INDIES

Williams c Cairns b Patel 20
 Chanderpaul b Nash 6
 Lara c Astle b Harris 11
 Simmons c Fleming b Larsen 45
 Adams not out 59
 Holder b Astle 65
 Harper c and b Astle 2
 Jacobs c Thompson b Larsen 10
 Bishop not out 12
 Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-3, nb-2) 8
 Total (for 7 wks, 50 overs) 238
 Fall of wickets: 1-15; 2-32; 3-42; 4-119; 5-210; 6-212; 7-225

Did not bat: Ambrose, Walsh

Bowling: O M R W
 Nash 6 0 29 1
 Larsen 10 1 42 2
 Harris 10 3 54 1
 Patel 8 0 30 1
 Astle 9 1 32 2
 Thompson 5 0 36 0
 Cairns 2 0 21 0

NEW ZEALAND

Spearman c Simmons b Harper 37
 Astle c Harper b Ambrose 2
 Germon c Simmons b Walsh 6
 Fleming not out 106
 Parore c Adams b Walsh 0
 Cairns b Adams 41
 Harris b Ambrose 32
 Patel not out 4
 Extras: (lb-7, w-3, nb-1) 11
 Total (for 6 wks, 49.5 overs) 239
 Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-35; 3-71; 4-71; 5-163; 6-230.

Did not bat: G Larsen, D Nash, S Thompson

Bowling: O M R W
 Ambrose 9.5 1 42 2
 Bishop 5 0 37 0
 Walsh 10 0 51 2
 Harper 10 2 28 1
 Simmons 10 0 50 0
 Adams 5 0 24 1

Result: New Zealand won by four wickets.
 Man-of-the-match: Stephen Fleming.

Aussies' SA itinerary

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 30: Australia will play three Tests and seven one-day internationals on their tour of South Africa in 1997, reports Reuter.

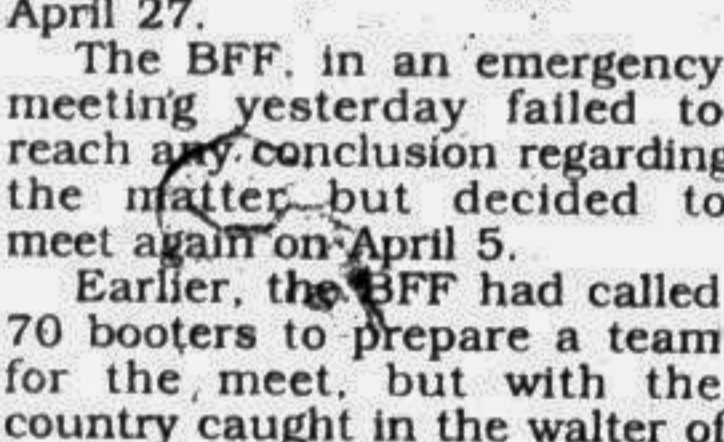
The full itinerary announced by the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) today:

Feb 13: v Nicky Oppenheimer XI, Randjesfontein.
 Feb 15-17: v Western Province, Cape Town.
 Feb 19: v Boland, Paarl.
 Feb 21-23: v Natal, Durban.
 Feb 25: v Transvaal Invitation XI, Soweto.

Feb 28-Mar 4: First Test, Johannesburg.
 March 7-9: v Border, East London.
 March 11: v Eastern Province Invitation XI, Port Elizabeth.
 March 14-15: Second Test, Port Elizabeth.
 March 21-25: Third Test, Pretoria.
 March 29: First one-day international, East London.
 March 31: Second one-day international, Port Elizabeth.
 April 2: Third one-day international, Cape Town.
 April 5: Fourth one-day international, Durban.
 April 8: Fifth one-day international, Johannesburg.
 April 10: Sixth one-day international, Pretoria.
 April 13: Seventh one-day international, Bloemfontein.

Cricket World Cup Quiz '96

Quiz 2: Bumper Round watch out! Draw date and venue will be announced tomorrow!



Goran sends Pete packing

A dejected Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, vents his anger against a decision which he claimed an ace for his match-point against American Pete Sampras during their semifinal clash of the Lipton Tennis Championships in Biscayne, Florida, on March 29. The lanky Croatian eventually went on to beat his American rival 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

When play resumed, it took Ivanisevic until the seventh game to turn the momentum his way. He handed Sampras, the world number two, only his second broken service game of the week to lead 4-3.

In the 10th game he produced two more aces, the second one for a set point, and he levelled the match on a service winner after exactly one hour.

"I started missing a bit and before I knew it was one set all," Sampras said. "I had my chances and Goran just won it."

He puts a lot of pressure on your service games, I missed a few careless forehands in the third set and that was it."

Agassi's only weather problem in his 90-minute victory over Boetsch was the wind, which both players said interfered with concentration.

Despite what, Agassi said he felt he had played well, a welcome change to his early form this year.

"I started off this year with a struggle," he said. "But I think I've found my game again, it's come around."

Boetsch, who upset seventh-seeded American Jim Courier in the quarter-finals, said he did not play as well on Friday as he had earlier in the week.

The Daily Star PHILIPS Cricket World Cup Quiz '96

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Singer Cup prize money

Huge prize money, worth 70,000 US dollars, has been allocated for the winners of the third Singer Cup to be held in Singapore from April 1.

The champions team will receive thirty thousand US dollars while the runners-up side will be richer by twenty thousand US dollars. The other team in the triangular series will receive ten thousand US dollars. The other ten thousand dollars will be awarded to the man-of-the-matches and the man-of-the-series.

It may be mentioned that the first Singer Cup was held in Sri Lanka in 1994 which was a four-nation tourney while the second version of the meet was held in Sharjah last year with three nations participating.

and in the second. Both players scampered for cover as the skies over South Florida opened, but they were back on court 48 minutes later.

Ivanisevic saved a break point to complete the interrupted game and level the second set at 1-1.

"When I went into the locker room, I meditated for five minutes, when I just had to start laughing," Ivanisevic said. "Pete was killing me in the first set and I could not put in a serve."

"I knew I had to pick that up. I served much better in the second and third sets."

Sampras, who served 11 aces to Ivanisevic's 10 in the match, set the tone in the first set with four aces. Ivanisevic, the leader on the ATP Tour this year with more than 600, had none.

Sampras, winner of seven Grand Slam titles, raced to a 3-0 lead in the first set, winning the third game with two straight aces.

He kept the Croatian off-guard with big serves. "I've finished off the opening set in 26 minutes when Ivanisevic double faulted."

He served a comfortable love game to open the second set before the rain struck.

SCOREBOARD

Spearman b Ambrose 7
 Twose c and b Harper 48
 Astle run out 43
 Fleming c Walsh b Simmons 4
 Parore c Harper b Adams 33
 Cairns st Jacobs b Harper 38
 Harris run out 10
 Germon not out 12
 Thompson run out 6
 Patel not out 3
 Extras: 4
 Total (for 8 wks, 50 overs) 219

Did not bat: G Larsen.
 Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-104; 3-105, 4-113, 5-178, 6-197, 7-205, 8-215.

Bowling: O M R W
 Ambrose 10 0 33 1
 Walsh 9 2 37 0
 Simmons 10 1 35 1
 L Williams 2 0 18 0
 Adams 9 0 44 1
 Harper 10 0 38 2

Arjuna couldn't save his shoe!

COLOMBO, Mar 30: A young woman stole the shoes of Arjuna Ranatunga who led Sri Lanka to its cricket World Cup victory but left him with a brand new pair instead, a press report here said Saturday, reports AFP.

The fan pinched the shoes when Ranatunga and his mates called on former president D B Wijetunga at his home in central Kandy region last week after Sri Lanka thrashed Australia to lift the Cup in Lahore, Pakistan.

The Sinhalese language Lankadeepa said an investigation revealed that the shoes were switched by a woman fan who was an ardent supporter of Ranatunga who did not press charges.

Sri Lankans often removed their footwear before entering a home as a sign of respect to the host.

Eric Cantona

LONDON, Mar 30: Eric Cantona will be looking to extend a remarkable run of a goal in each of his last five games when Manchester United clash with Chelsea on Sunday for a place in the English FA Cup final, reports Reuter.

Mark Hughes, who with the Frenchman helped United lift the trophy in 1994 after scoring a crucial semifinal equaliser against Oldham, now lines up on the opposite side with Chelsea revenge and a personal record in his sights.

But a third, even greater player, Ruud Gullit, probably holds the key to the semifinal at Villa Park in Birmingham.

Cantona has inspired United to the top of the Premier league and into the last four in the FA Cup as they seek to repeat the double of two years ago, clinched with Glenn Hoddle's Chelsea in the final at Wembley where the Frenchman netted two penalties and Hughes also scored.

This month, Cantona has scored in the 1-0 league win over former leaders Newcastle on March 4, the first goal in the 2-0 FA Cup quarter-final victory over Southampton six days later and again in the 1-1 draw with Queen's Park Rangers and 1-0 wins over Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur in the last two weeks.

Hoddle said: "United are on a good run and Eric Cantona has popped up with some important and special goals for them lately. But it's all about who feels good on the day."

"We have had the toughest of draws, starting in the third round against Newcastle, and now we meet the favourites. But on our day we can beat anyone."

Former United favourite Hughes could be Chelsea's trump card as he bids to become the only player this century to land four FA Cup winners' medals. The 32-year-old Welsh international's three wins so far were with United

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Olympic torch ignited

ANCIENT OLYMPIA, Greece, Mar 30: The Olympic flame that will burn at this summer's Atlanta Games was lit by the sun's rays today in a ceremony drawing on ancient pagan ritual, reports Reuter.

"Apollo, god of light, send your rays and light the holy flame," chanted a white-robed "priestess," surrounded by 20 acolytes.

US first Lady Hillary Clinton, attending the ceremony at the end of a nine-day goodwill tour of southern Europe, called the flame a beacon of international goodwill and understanding.

Mrs. Clinton, accompanied by her daughter Chelsea, 16, was among several thousand guests and tourists at the ceremony in the stadium where they Olympic Games originated in 776 BC.

She then walked from the stadium through the sprawling ruins of the ancient pagan sanctuary to the temple of Zeus, where Greek actresses, dressed as priestesses, lit the flame.

Since the Berlin Games in 1936, a flame lit in ancient Olympia has opened the Games to underscore the continuation of the ideals of the ancient Greeks in the modern Olympics.

The ceremony took on special significance this year.

which is the centennial celebration of the first modern Games in Athens in 1896.

"Every four years, the family of nations gathers to pursue excellence and to find peace and comradeship through sports. That is the heart of the Olympic ideal," Mrs Clinton told an array of dignitaries before walking to the flame lighting.

At the climax of the ceremony the actress-priestesses walked solemnly through the austere, fallen Doric columns of the temple of Zeus and lit the flame near the ancient altar.

The flame was then carried to the slow beat of a drum to a runner, who first of a long chain who will carry it in a four-month relay across Greece and the United States.

It will be carried into the main stadium in Atlanta during the opening ceremony on July 19 and will light the flame which will burn until the Games close on August 4.

US officials said Mrs Clinton's presence was aimed to help ease Greece's anger and disappointment at failing in its bid to host the centennial Games.

"Through these Games we have forged bond of international goodwill and understanding," Mrs Clinton said.

"I am honoured to represent the American people at this celebration. It is a special privilege to be here in Greece, the birthplace of the Olympics, and of so many ideals and institutions that define our civilization today," she said.

The ballroom predicament

LONDON, Mar 30: The glamorous world of ballroom dancing, which this year becomes a demonstration sport at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, is facing the introduction of random drug tests, reports AFP.

But it is not cocaine or steroids that pose the biggest threat to the highly-competitive exponents of the rumba or the cha cha cha. The Times reported Saturday, but the serial pre-contest coffee that could be the downfall of many competitors.

The event's governing body in Britain says drug tests are likely to follow the activity's acceptance for the Olympics. If successful at this year's Games, it will become a fully-fledged Olympic sport in the next century, it added.

Many ballroom dancers rely on tea, coffee and chocolate to help them through gruelling competitions that can sometimes last up to 12 hours.

Excessive caffeine, along with cocaine and amphetamines, diuretics and growth hormones are among the stimulants prohibited to Olympic athletes.



Greek actress Anna Skoulkidou (L), attired in an ancient priestess, holds high the sacred and century-old Olympic flame as priestess Maria Pambouki (R) attempts to ignite the torch of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics in Athens on March 29.

Cantona Chelsea's concern

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But a third, even greater player, Ruud Gullit, probably holds the key to the semifinal at Villa Park in Birmingham.

Cantona has inspired United to the top of the Premier league and into the last four in the FA Cup as they seek to repeat the double of two years ago, clinched with Glenn Hoddle's Chelsea in the final at Wembley where the Frenchman netted two penalties and Hughes also scored.

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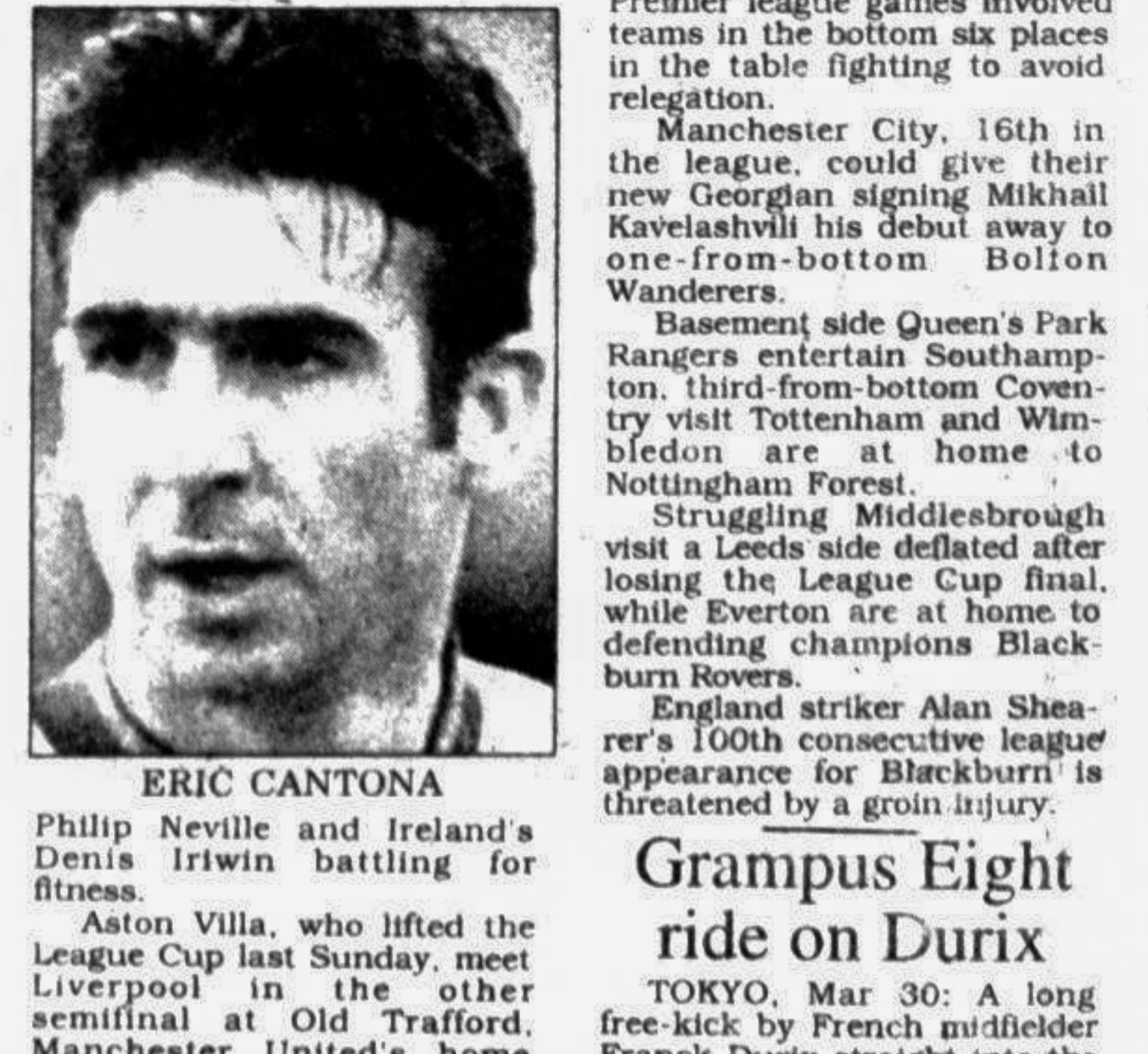
Lloyd accepts the challenge

LONDON, Mar 30: David Lloyd has accepted the job of England's cricket coach for the coming season. The 49-year-old Lancashireman has been released on secondment by his county for the home series with India and Pakistan, reports Reuter.

Lloyd, a former England opener, said, "As far as I am concerned, we have the talent in England to do well - I am absolutely certain of that."

He added, "There's no doubt that the England lads have had a demanding time recently. Now we must rebuild confidence and instil enthusiasm and enjoyment into the players."

On Thursday, former England off-spinner John Emburey, now a coach with Northamptonshire, ruled himself out, saying he wanted more experience in order to serve England later.



Eric Cantona

Grampus Eight ride on Durix

TOKYO, Mar 30: A long free-kick by French midfielder Franck Kurix straight into the goal saw Nagoya Grampus Eight to victory against defending champions Yokoyama Marinos 1-0 in the Japanese football league today.