

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT the oldest sport in the world is calculated to be Bowling. Stone Age men undoubtedly indulged in this most ubiquitous of sports using shaped rocks. Since then every civilisation has embraced some version of the art, from Egypt to the Philippines to Central Europe. Primitive man may have also held rudimentary contests with his hunting equipment and signalled the beginning of Archery. However, the first real evidence of organised Archery is found in ancient sport.

From the ritual of crop planting emerged some five thousand years ago contests involving bats. The Greek god of agriculture, Osiris, would have his image placed on a cart and this would be pushed towards the appropriate temple. A battery of priests standing outside the sacred area would try to beat back the god's bearers with sticks, and from this ceremonial splitting of heads it is postulated that all Egypt's ball games descended including a rudimentary recognisable version of hockey.

Come to think of it, we are not far behind our ancestors. We still do a lot of stone throwing. And head splitting? Well, some of us are world beaters at that.

SPORTS TALK



Graeme Pollock

(Former South African cricketer great)

"South African sportsmen are always determined. The current batting side is not greatly talented but they've got useful cricketers though nobody really shows out as being a brilliant player. They're determined and are an exceptional fielding side, and strength has been their strength - it what has a big difference."

The secret of South Africa's success.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Scissors icon

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-35

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes 8 p.m. April 26, 1996)

1. Who won the Pepsi Cup at Sharjah in 1996?	Pakistan	India	South Africa
2. Bayern—	Hochs	Munich	Fuse
3. Which of these is most modern?	Football	Cricket	Basketball
4. The swimming event combining all strokes is	Medley	Freestyle	Composite
5. A healthy diet means more	ice-cream	Sweets	Cereals

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (if any) _____

One small step for Pernell

MARIGOT, St Martin, Apr 19: Pernell Whitaker, whom many consider the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, sees challenger Wilfredo Rivera as a "stepping stone" toward a unifying bout, but the undefeated Puerto Rican has other ideas, reports AP.

Whitaker, the World Boxing Council welterweight champion, will put his belt on the line against Rivera on Friday night in the most unlikely of stages — a makeshift 1,000-seat arena under a tarpaulin on St Martin, which was devastated by Hurricane Luis in September.

St Martin will be hosting its first-ever title bout, which will be fought under the same rules used in New Jersey since New Jersey Boxing Commissioner Larry Hazzard will preside the events. The fight will be aired live on Home Box Office.

Also on the card is World Boxing Association welterweight champ Ike Quartey, who takes unranked American contender Vin Phillips.

To well-versedistic experts, the card will be a preview to a unification bout between Whitaker and Quartey sometime this summer. But Rivera — the top-ranked contender in the WBC — says they are in for a big surprise.

S Africa's 'desert storm'



SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Apr 19: South Africa swept aside India by 38 runs in the Pepsi Cup final here today to cap a momentous run in their maiden appearance at cricket's famous desert venue, reports AFP.

Continuing the form that has given them an undefeated record in the double-leg league of the three-nation event also involving Pakistan, the South Africans rode on a century by opener Gary Kirsten to pile up 287 for five.

They then put in a classy fielding display to run out four top order batsmen — including Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin and star batsman Sachin Tendulkar — to leave their rivals stranded at 249 for nine.

The South Africans earned 30,000 dollars for their effort that partially compensated for their World Cup disappointment where they were beaten in the quarter-finals by the West Indies after romping through the league phase with five straight wins.

"It's nice to win a tournament in our first appearance at Sharjah," Cronje said. "The mistake of being a bit complacent in the World Cup was learnt well."

"We came here to win after not going the full distance in the World Cup. I am delighted at the team's performance," the South African skipper said.

Azharuddin paid handsome tribute to his rivals, saying they were deserving winners.

The (South Africans) were the best team on view here. Both the Indian and Pakistani teams can learn a lot from their dedication towards the job at hand."

South Africa's total revolved around Kirsten's patient unbeaten 115, his second century against the Indians in six days following the 106 in the league last Sunday.

Kirsten carried his bat through the innings after South Africa, electing to bat, were reeling at 20 for two by the sixth over.

Brian McMillan smashed three sixes — two of which landed outside the Sharjah Cricket Stadium — in a spectacular 37 off 25 balls as the South Africans plundered 59 runs in the last seven overs.

Indian openers Tendulkar and Virender Rathore gave their team a flying start by putting on 59 for the first wicket by the 13th over.

Craig Matthews, coming on after six overs from Fanie de Villiers, broke the stand in his sixth delivery when Rathore edged an outswinger to wicket-keeper Dave Richardson. The batsman made 23.

Anal Kumble, promoted to number three in a pinch-hitter's role, made 10 before he was unluckily run out as Matthews deflected a shot from Tendulkar into the non-striker's wicket with Kumble out of his crease.

London Marathon tomorrow

LONDON, Apr 19: Pre-race favourite Dionisio Ceron of Mexico will be bidding for an unprecedented trinity of wins in the 1996 London Marathon on Sunday, reports AFP.

But the diminutive ace of the long distance will be under pressure from one of the most competitive fields in the 16-year history of the race.

Ceron finished 24 seconds ahead of Ethiopia's Abebe Mekonnen in the 1994 marathon and last year outran Australian Steve Moneghetti to achieve his personal best time of 2hrs 8mins 30secs.

But amongst the record field of 27,000, Ceron will come up against some of the world's top runners who are competing for places at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Belgian Vincent Rousseau, who is the second fastest European ever to run the distance, believes a world record is still possible on Sunday.

The Belgian is looking to break the eight-year mark of 2hrs 6mins 50secs belonging to Ethiopia's Belayneh Dinsamo.

"It's difficult to say how fast we will run because there are a lot of things to consider, but a very fast time is possible," said Rousseau.

A 100,000 pounds prize (about 150,000 dollars) is on offer for a world best, with 25,000 pounds for anyone beating the course record of 2hrs 8mins 16secs set by Welshman Steve Jones in 1985.

Rousseau, who will not compete in Atlanta because it will be hot and humid, will be happy with the weather forecast for Sunday which is expected to be around 17 degrees centigrade at mid-day.

Rousseau is the joint favourite for Sunday's race with Ceron but the pair are not likely to have things all their own way.

Mexico's German Silva, who has won the New York Marathon for the last two years, returns to London with the aim of improving on his third place in 1994.

In the women's event, double winner Norwegian Grete Waitz believes Britain's Liz McGoligan can put her injury-dogged career back on track and beat defending champion Małgorzata Sobanska.

A second rival to the Scot has pulled out through injury. Finland's Ritva Lemettinen, third last year, has joined 1990 winner Wanda Panfil, of Poland, on the sidelines.

The 22-year-old Tendulkar, already a veteran of 115 one-dayers, crossed the 4,000-run mark and raced to 57 off 71 balls when the South Africans earned another lucky reprieve in the 24th over to make it 112 for three.

Leg-spinner Kumble removed Cronje for 25 and Derek Crookes for 26, but McMillan stepped in at that stage to smash the tiring attack.

Sidhu himself left four overs later, playing a lazy cut in Hansie Cronje's first over to give Matthews an easy catch at point.

Sanjay Manjrekar (41) and Azharuddin (39) put on 74 for the fifth wicket before both were run out, shattering hopes of some 15,000 vocal Indian supporters who crowded the stadium.

Earlier, South Africa lost Andrew Hudson in Javagal

previous best from 26 one-day matches was 35, slammed five boundaries and two sixes before holding out to the mid-wicket boundary against left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju.

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Pepsi Cup limited overs cricket final between South Africa and India at Sharjah on Friday.

SOUTH AFRICA

	G Kirsten not out	115
A Hudson c Azharuddin b Srinath	0	
D Cullinan b Prasad	2	
P Symcox c Jadeja b Raju	61	
H Cronje c Rathore b Kumble	25	
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B McMillan not out	37	

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