

Morrison mauls Windies



ST JOHN'S, Antigua, May 2: Danny Morrison claimed four wickets to put West Indies on the run on Wednesday and give New Zealand a real chance of winning the second cricket Test, reports PTL.

West Indies, who had carved out a first innings lead of 111, ended the fourth day at the Antigua recreation ground struggling at 147 for seven.

Fast bowler Morrison's four for 38 in 12 overs included the prized wicket of world record-holder Brian Lara, mainstay of the West Indies innings with a score of 74.

Morrison, who came to the Caribbean as New Zealand's lone world-class bowler with 150 wickets in 45 Tests, reserved his best for a sensational final session when the West Indies lost six wickets for 109 runs.

Lara and opener Sherwin Campbell, who scored 36, were the only West Indies batsmen to reach double figures on the day. Wicketkeeper Courtney Browne is three not out and Curtly Ambrose has yet to score.

New Zealand, who began the day at 346 for seven, were all out for 437 in reply to the daunting West Indies first innings total of 548 for seven.

West Indies lead the two Test series 1-0 after a 10-wicket victory in Bridgetown, Barbados.

After going into lunch at 412 for eight, New Zealand extended their first innings for 50 minutes after the interval.

Dipak Patel, 70 at lunch.

with five for 68, his 14th five-wicket haul in 61 Tests.

New Zealand did not have to wait long for success in the West Indies' second innings.

Samuels, who had hammered a century in the first innings, square-cut the first ball.

Lara, who had struggled badly with his timing, started to get into his stride just when the West Indies' slide began.

He took three consecutive fours off Chris Harris but then had to watch as Campbell, Phil Simmons, Jimmy Adams and Shivnarine Chanderpaul fell in the space of 39 runs.

Lara himself perished to an injudicious shot, flashing at Morrison and edging a catch to Fleming, who accepted it this time. His innings had spanned 119 balls and 161 minutes and included nine fours.

Morrison then crowned a fine day by inducing Bishop to edge his final ball of the penultimate over to wicket-keeper Lee Gernon.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 346-7)
Spearman c Browne b Walsh 54
Tiose b Ambrose 2
Morrison lbw b Ambrose 0
Fleming c Browne b Bishop 39
Astle c Simmons b Ambrose 103
Vaughan b Dhanraj 26
Harris c Adams b Ambrose 40
Gernon c Browne b Ambrose 49
Patel c Browne b Bishop 78
Larsen not out 17
Kennedy c Browne b Bishop 4
Extras: (lb-7; nb-18) 25
Total: 437

Fall of wickets: 1-9; 2-9; 3-98; 4-108; 5-202; 6-276; 7-281; 8-391; 9-426
Bowling: O M R W
Ambrose 32 12 68 5 (nb-2)
Walsh 27 5 71 1 (nb-7)
Dhanraj 38 9 132 1
Bishop 26 3 6 90 3 (nb-8)
Adams 19 4 59 0 (nb-1)
Chanderpaul 2 0 10 0

WEST INDIES: Second innings

Campbell c Fleming b Vaughan 36
Samuels lbw Morrison 4
Lara c Fleming b Morrison 74
Simmons c Vaughan b Harris 6
Adams c and b Vaughan 0
Chanderpaul b Morrison 8
Browne not out 3
Bishop c Gernon b Morrison 9
Ambrose not out 0
Extras: (lb-1; nb-6) 7
Total: (for seven wickets) 147
Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-89; 3-94; 4-119; 5-128; 6-133; 7-147
To bat: C Walsh, R Dhanraj

Bowling: O M R W
Morrison 12 1 38 4 (nb-1)
Larsen 8 1 25 0
Kennedy 7 1 19 0 (nb-4)
Vaughan 15 4 30 2 (nb-1)
Harris 4 0 34 1



CURTLY AMBROSE

ball he faced from Morrison for four. But Morrison gained quick revenge, trapping the batsman lbw with a full-length delivery which struck him on the back foot.

Lara joined Campbell and the pair batted patiently in seeing the West Indies to the interval without further loss.

New Zealand should have claimed the wicket of Lara without addition to his test-time score of 13 but Stephen Fleming spilled a straight-forward catch at first slip off Kennedy.

Campbell and Lara extended their second-wicket stand to 84 before New Zealand broke through again with the return of Morrison to the attack.



JIMMY ADAMS ... starts getting into his glorious stride

Richie ready to return

ST JOHN'S (Antigua), May 2: Former West Indies cricket captain Richie Richardson said he is available for the Australian tour later this year despite his announced intentions to retire at this year's World Cup, reports AFP.

"I am still young, I think, and I would like to go out there and score a few runs," said Richardson, 33, who captained the West Indies in 24 Tests and 87 limited overs internationals.

"I wanted to retire at this period in my career," the Antiguan said. "If my country needs me, I will be happy to do it. But it will be under a few conditions."

Richardson took himself out of the first three limited overs internationals against New Zealand and was not picked for the remaining two or the Test matches.

Richardson has scored 2,175 runs, including nine centuries, in 29 Tests against Australia. He has scored 5,949 Test runs and the West Indies won 11 Tests and 46 limited overs with him as captain.

"I'm just here waiting for the call," he said. "I don't know what is going to happen. I have a few contingency plans because I am not getting any younger and I have to get on with the rest of my life."

added just eight more before he was caught by wicketkeeper Browne, who then held his fifth catch of the innings to account for last man Robert Kennedy.

Ian Bishop captured both the last two wickets to end with figures of three for 90. But Ambrose was the most successful West Indies bowler

with five for 68, his 14th five-wicket haul in 61 Tests.

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Tendulkar also topped the list in the individual category earnings Rs 1.67 lakhs, including Rs one lakh for winning the Indian Cricketer-of-the-Year award.

Leg spinner Anil Kumble (1992-93) and left hander Vinod Kambli (1993-94) are the others to win this award. In the individual cash award section, Nayan Mongia (Rs 23,500) and batsman Navjot Singh (Rs 22,500) are in the second and third places.

The Indian team also gained Rs 6.15 lakhs in team award section for winning the Test series and One-Day international series against New Zealand, three league matches and the quarterfinal match against Pakistan in the Wills World Cup on one match each at Singapore and Sharjah.

Tendulkar's third

MUMBAI, May 2: Indian cricket team vice-captain and prolific batsman Sachin Tendulkar was declared the Sun-Grace-Mafatal's Indian Cricketer-of-the-Year for 1995-96 season, reports PTL.

This is the third time he has won this award.

The run-machine, who aggregated the highest runs in the Wills World Cup and then scored a century each at Singapore and Sharjah, collected 50 points to his credit, according to a release here today.

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German eves win Euro TT title

BRATISLAVA, May 2: Germany's women secured a season's hat-trick when they won the European Table Tennis Championship team title by beating Hungary 4-2 in Wednesday's final, reports Reuters.

"This is our third and most valuable title," a happy German coach Dirk Schimmling said. "We have already won this year's women's team cup and European league and I think this proves that we are currently Europe's best."

The Germans, European team runners-up two years ago behind Russia, suffered a setback in the first rubber when Europe's current number one Nicole Struse went down to a humiliating 18-21, 21-19, 8-21 defeat by 17th-ranked Kristina Toth.

Germany equalised and then pulled ahead with wins by Olga Bemes over European number four Cailia Bartoli and Jie Schopp, currently ranked third in Europe, over Vivien Elio.

The Hungarians managed to pull level in the doubles in which defending European title holders Bartoli and Toth proved too strong for Struse and Elke Schall and won 21-14, 21-16.

But then Struse and Schopp put Germany onto the winners podium with victories over Batori and Toth respectively.

Anything was possible today and we saw some of the best women's table tennis," Schimmling said. "This was really a final of Europe's best two teams."

Romania beat England 4-0 to win the women's team bronze medal.

Delhi Grand Prix held back

NEW DELHI, May 2: India's first ever Grand Prix track and field meet scheduled to be held here on May 8, has been postponed due to parliamentary elections in the country, an Indian official said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The grade-two meet coincided with the counting of votes in the ongoing general elections and would have generated little interest, the official said, adding it would now be held probably in August.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has agreed to our request and asked us to fix an alternate date as early as possible. Lalit Bhanot, secretary of the Indian track and field body, said.

"They have told us that we can hold the meet in the last week of August, but at least two days before the Berlin Grand Prix on August 30. The new date will be announced soon," Bhanot said.

Indian officials were relieved when IAAF accepted the postponement since work on the new synthetic track being laid at the meet's venue, the 75,000 seater Nehru Stadium, was still in progress.

India, which was bidding for the lucrative Grand Prix grade-one meet, were awarded a grade-two competition when the IAAF expanded its circuit this year.

But failure to hold the meet would have ruined India's chances of securing a grade-one meet in future.

I'm obviously enjoying

things at the moment but the main thing is that we batted the whole day today and we are still in the game.

Time, not scoring runs, was more important. I probably ground it out a little more than

His century against England in the opening match of this year's World Cup helped New Zealand to an upset victory, although his later form in the tournament was disappointing.

He then made an inauspicious start to New Zealand's Caribbean tour, receiving a blow on the jaw from Patterson Thompson in the opening match which forced him to retire briefly for a precautionary X-ray.

Undeterred, Astle took on the raw but decidedly swift West Indian fast bowler in the first Test, hitting 54 and 125 and providing the only sustained New Zealand resistance as the tourists went down by 10 wickets.

Astle's maiden Test hundred came from only 125 balls and in all he hit 22 fours and two sixes.

Turner, one of the game's supreme technicians during his career with New Zealand and Worcestershire, has identified a flaw in Astle's technique which will cause problems on pitches offering more lateral movement than those in the Caribbean.

"The only thing that Astle has to work on is when the second new ball comes," Turner said. "When the new ball comes back, he tends to be a length player rather than a line player."

Astle, 24, scored a record 687 runs in New Zealand's Shell Cup one-day competition and has one-day international centuries to his credit against India, Zimbabwe and England.

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