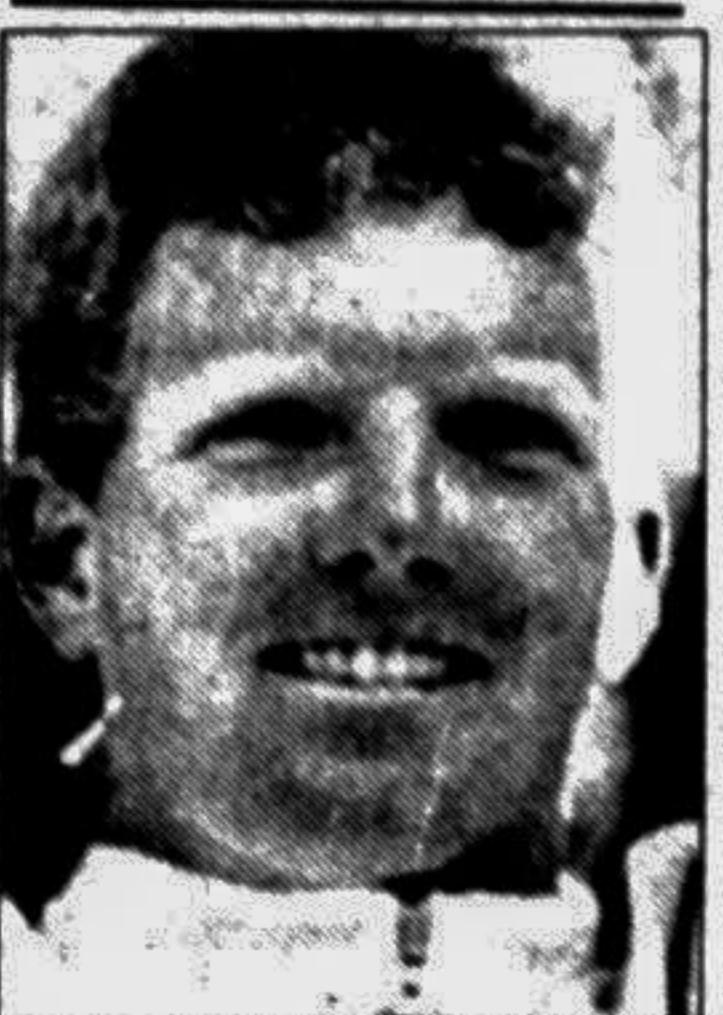


## Column One

## SPORTS TALK



Jim Courier

(American tennis star)  
Money is not happiness.  
Fame is not something I need.  
I'm not an icon like Agassi. I'm  
not really looking to develop  
an image. I prefer to be myself.

DID U' KNOW?  
(The Professor does)

**T**HAT there's this new portable nine-hole golf game, designed to be played anytime, anywhere. It uses only a fraction of the space required for a full-sized version of the same. It's called SWIN.

Henri du Pont, 30-year old great-great-grandson of DuPont Corp founder Eleuthere Irénée du Pont, is marketing SWIN in which players need to carry only one club. Wow! how convenient. This single club has a three-sided plastic head. It's a driver, wedge and putter; all in one.

But, credit for inventing the game has to go to Henri's godfather, Laurent de Villorin, who worked three years on sketches of a two-sided golf club. Vilmorin's dad had drawn in the 30's. And, SWIN was born. The result was a three-faced golf club, a spongy dimple ball, and holes that consist of 'hoops' a foot in diameter that sit at the bases of flag sticks, anywhere.

To hole a ball, a player must simply knock it into the hoop. Because of the 4 acres of land required, the inexpensive equipment, the short playing time, plus the thrills of golf omnipresent, SWIN is catching fire.

SWIN or no SWIN, I prefer my 72-hole course on my PC.

WHIZZ KID  
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDRENSports WHIZZ KID  
competition-36

✓ Tick the Correct Answer  
(Competition closes: 8 p.m.  
May 10, 1996)

1. The 2002 World Cup football will be held in
South Korea Japan Not yet decided
2. If FIDE is for chess, FINA is for
Billiards Snooker Swimming
3. Tennis star Jennifer Capriati is
Swedish American Dutch
4. The fastest one-day hundred by
Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya is off
46 balls 47 balls 48 balls
5. The man-of-the-series in Pepsi Cup was
Colman Kristen Symon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Azlan Shah Cup

ROK beat

India

**I**POH, Malaysia, May 5: South Korea, the 1994 Asian Games champions, started their campaign on a winning note with a 2-0 win over Indian in the six-nation Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament today, reports AFP.

The Koreans, who came with their full Atlanta Olympic squad, had a better share of the attacks over the younger Indians whose side consisted of members of the back-up squad.

The Koreans were the early aggressors but were unlucky not to score in the 18th minute. Song Seung Tae's stricker was cleared by Rajesh Mishra when keeper Edward Aloystus was well beaten.

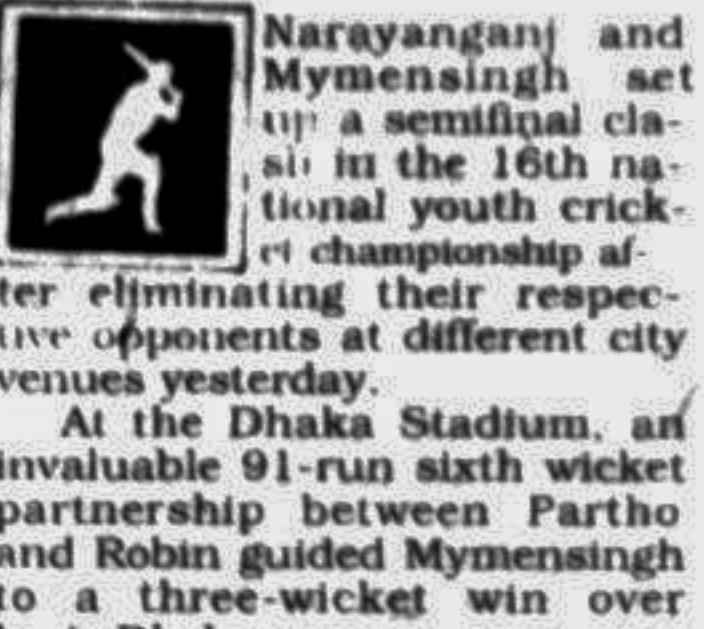
Earlier, Malaysia stunned 1994 World Cup runners-up Netherlands 2-0.

Malaysia, who edged Great Britain 3-2 Saturday, continued their fine run against the Dutchmen and took full points through the second-half goals by Charil Anwar and Mirnawwan Nawaz.

The home team started off sluggishly, squander in four penalty-corners in the first 11 minutes of the match.

## N'ganj, M'singh in semis

Sports Reporter



Narayanganj and Mymensingh set up a semifinal clash in the 16th national youth cricket championship after eliminating their respective opponents at different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhaka Stadium, an invaluable 91-run sixth wicket partnership between Partha and Robin guided Mymensingh to a three-wicket win over hosts Dhaka.

But it was hardly an easy sail for Mymensingh in their chase of a modest Dhaka total of 179 as they lost half their side with only 88 runs on the board.

After the early debacle, Robin, who came in at number seven, swung the pendulum their way with a blazing 53 off only 43 balls.

Robin, who had to struggle for every run in his whirlwind innings at the big bowl, sent the cherry across the rope

thrice before he was eventually out in the 36th over leaving his side only one run short of the cherished victory.

On the other hand Partha, who had earlier captured two wickets, remained unbeaten on a patient but priceless 42 which included a sixer to complete a brilliant all-round display.

In reply, Narayanganj made a shaky start losing four wickets for 91. Ultimately, they posted 200 for six with Towhid hitting a sparkling 56 embellished with six fours and a massive sixer. He was well supported by skipper Narayan Chandra who contributed an workman-like 34. Together they shared a match-winning stand of 90 runs for the fifth wicket to pull Narayanganj out of the ditch.

Narayanganj will now take on Mymensingh in the second semifinal tomorrow at the Dhaka Stadium.

## Sport

## Akram to take over the helm?

ISLAMABAD, May 5: All-rounder Wasim Akram was reported today as saying he had been retained as captain for

the Pakistan team for the

Asian Cup.

Electing to use the wicket first, Comilla scored a fighting 197/9 in their share of 45 overs with lower-order Azad hammering highest 48 runs.

In reply, Narayanganj made a shaky start losing four wickets for 91. Ultimately, they posted 200 for six with Towhid hitting a sparkling 56 embellished with six fours and a massive sixer. He was well supported by skipper Narayan Chandra who contributed an workman-like 34. Together they shared a match-winning stand of 90 runs for the fifth wicket to pull Narayanganj out of the ditch.

Narayanganj will now take on Mymensingh in the second semifinal tomorrow at the Dhaka Stadium.

## Of gorgeous Gheorghe

And while his place in Romanian soccer history is assured, question — marks remain about his ability to inspire the team again.

Hagi is the most expensive Romanian player of all time, costing Real Madrid 4.3 million dollars when they signed him from Steaua Bucharest in June 1990 after the World Cup in Italy.

His career started at Farul Constanta before he moved to Sportul Studentesc and then to Steaua in 1988.

Two years later he was in Madrid, and two years after that he joined Brescia of Italy.

Last summer came what will probably be the last big move of his career when he joined fellow-Romanian Gica Popescu at Barcelone.

But he has had a disappointing season at the Nou Camp, though many people in Spain would point the finger of blame not at Hagi himself, but at Barcelone coach Johan Cruyff.

The Dutchman's juggling of his teams, he very rarely repeats a line-up — has particularly affected Hagi, who has been unable to hold down a permanent place in the side.

Cruyff has been unable to find room for Hagi's individual flair in his schemes and the Romanian has frequently ended up on the right rarer than the left-wing, which would be his natural position.

His best performance came in the UEFA Cup match at Sevilla, where he blasted home a superb free-kick and hit the post with another spectacular, in this case right-foot, shot.

But Hagi did not even make the bench in several other key European matches and it now looks as though he will leave at the end of the season.

He has also suffered through injury and was knocked in the face last week and needed two stitches in the game against sporting Gijon. Hagi has twice been Romania's footballer-of-the-year and after the World Cup in 1994 was voted the joint fourth best player in Europe.

Very attached to his mother, 'Gica' calls her every day from wherever he is in the world.

And even if Romania do not win the title, at least he has had something to celebrate this year with his wife Mariana, giving birth to a daughter in March.

BUCHAREST, May 5: (Reuter) One summer's night 13 years ago a crowd of fewer than 8,000 unsuspecting fans in Oslo's Ullevaal Stadium saw the birth of a world class player.

While most of the details of Norway's 0-0 friendly draw with Romania that night have long been forgotten, the match made the start of the then 18-year-old Gheorghe Hagi's international career.

Now aged 31 with a Romanian record 96 caps, Hagi's reputation as a master playmaker with dazzling skills and an eye for goal have spread around the globe.

But it remains to be seen whether he can recapture the golden form that took Romania into the quarterfinals of USA '94 World Cup and the

European Championship finals.

As Romania advanced to the last eight two years ago, his countrymen took to the streets back home shouting 'Hagi for president'.

Pakistan's forthcoming tour of England, reports Reuter.

I have been told by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials that they have retained me as captain, he said in an interview with the Pakistani daily newspaper Dawn.

Akram, who will be 30 next month, was forced to miss the World Cup quarterfinal that Pakistan lost to arch-rivals India in Bangalore last March and later one-day tournaments in Singapore and Sharjah because of a side strain.

He said he had told PCB authorities that now he was fit and available for the England tour.

From now on, I will start thinking as captain regarding the plays to be used in England, he said.

Dawn also quoted PCB chief executive Arif Ali Abbasi as saying Akram would captain the team in the full 1996-97 season.

Pakistani chief selector Zafar Altaf said the Pakistani team, due to leave for England on June 16, would not be named before the middle of this month.

## Davids in Goliaths' fray

AMSTERDAM: May 5 (Reuter): Unlike some of the big names of the European Championship, Edgar Davids knows where he is headed after the tournament ends on June 30.

While many of Europe's eligible players will be in the shop window during June, hoping for lucrative deals with new clubs, AC Milan has already swooped for Davids, who has emerged in the past 12 months as the true successor to veteran Rijkaard.

Like Rijkaard who also followed the road from Ajax to Milan in the 1980s, Davids has been ruling the Ajax midfield with his speed, strength and creativity.

Milan had first-hand experience of Davids' talent a year ago when he played for Ajax against them in the European Cup final in Vienna. Ajax won 1-0. Davids was a key player, and Milan probably knew then he was their man.

A strong, intelligent player — yet another home-grown product of the European champion's celebrated youth policy — Davids commands huge respect from his teammates and coach.

The 23-year-old, short but stout of heart and with his shorter version of the famous Ruud Gullit's deadlocks, joint Ajax's youth development programme in his early teens and has worked his way up

through the system.

But the player's love affair with the Dutch champions has not always been required.

As a growing talent in his late teens, Davids had a reputation as a quarrelsome, indisciplined youth. Red cards were frequent. At one stage Ajax ap-

peared ready to wash its hands of him.

They used to tell me, you can win a thousand wars, but you're not a real fighter until you've conquered yourself.

He sees his Ajax career as work, hobby and art-form.

Davids made his Ajax debut at the start of the 1991-92 season and has since played over 140 games, scoring 31 goals, but has only recently established himself at the heart of the national side, replacing the retired Rijkaard in midfield.

His five caps have yet to yield a goal, but his gritty play was a major factor in getting the Dutch to the finals.

DAVIDS . . . raring to storm the international stage.

EDGAR DAVIDS . . . raring to storm the international stage.

## Brazilian back with bang

SUITA, Japan, May 5: Brazilian striker Edilson ended a month long goal drought on Saturday when he scored five goals in leading Kashima Reysol to a 7-1 drubbing of Gamba Osaka, reports Reuter.

"Five goals? It's the first time since I was born," said Edilson, who became the second player in J-League history to score five times in a single match.

Edilson's feat equalled the record for most goals scored in a match set by Japan's Koji Noguchi when Bellmare Hiratsuka hammered Kashima Antlers 7-0 in May last year.

Edilson opened the scoring for Kashima three minutes into the second half, then struck four more in the space of 26 minutes.

DAVIDS . . . raring to storm the international stage.

EDGAR DAVIDS . . . raring to storm the international stage.

## Stepp wins

ATLANTA, May 5: Tommy Stepp of the United States scored a 3-1 decision over Russia's Gusein Kurbanov to win the 71-kilogramme title Saturday in the Atlanta Boxing Classic, reports AP.

It was the second American victory of the tournament, a test for the Olympic boxing competition that will take place at Alexander memorial Coliseum on the Georgia Tech campus. Earlier in the evening, Frank Durst scored an upset victory over Vichai Rachadon of Thailand at 54 kilograms.

Cubans dominated the tournament, with five of the six team members winning gold medals and the other a silver.

USA boxing has placed little emphasis on the event, sending a five-man team that doesn't include anyone who made the Olympic team as a regular or alternate.

The event drew a much stronger field from other nations, a total of 47 boxers from 21 countries.

## Barrera floor's Benavides

ANAHEIM, California, May 5: Marco Antonio Barrera of Mexico knocked out Jesse Benavides at 1:50 of the ninth round Saturday night to defend his WBO junior featherweight championship for the sixth time, reports AP.

Barrera knocked out former WBO champion Benavides with a left hook to the body before 5,877 fans at Anaheim Arena, where Barrera won the title 12 months ago.

Barrera improved to 41-0 with 29 knockouts. Benavides, of Corpus Christi, Texas, fell to 40-5-1 with 25 knockouts. Both fighters weighed 122 pounds (55 kilos).

Jacquet, who had originally appointed Eric Cantona as his captain, could find no place for the Manchester United star after his eight-month suspension for kicking a fan ended nor did he have time for the caprices of Newcastle United's David Ginola, insisting on making it to the Dhaka zone semifinals with an eight-wicket win over Residential Model School on the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. Three more teams from the zone and one each from other zones will play in the final round.

In a low-scoring affair, Maple Leaf, facing an easy target of 115 runs to win in 35 overs, milked the required runs for the loss of only two wickets and with more than 16 overs to spare.

Opener Salman Rahman, who shared 59 runs for the second wicket with Salahuddin, scored highest 34 runs for the winners while the latter remained unbeaten on 31.

Earlier, Salman Rahman led the Maple Leaf charge with the cherry claiming three wickets to skittle Residential Model School out for a paltry 114. Salman apart, Tamim and Bashir were the other notable tuckers capturing two wickets apiece.

Meanwhile, in another low-scoring affair on the day, Govt. Laboratory High School completed the Dhaka zone final round quorum when they pipped Manarat International to the post and annexed Group H championship with a thumping eight-wicket win at the RMS ground.

Govt. Laboratory, who had earlier shamed Manarat out for a paltry 96, rattled up 99 in only 16.2 overs with their skipper, Murtaza Hossain Bappy scoring an unbeaten 51 off 40 balls which included seven hits across the rope and two sixes.

Barrera knocked out former WBO champion Benavides with a left hook to the body before 5,877 fans at Anaheim Arena