

Column One DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

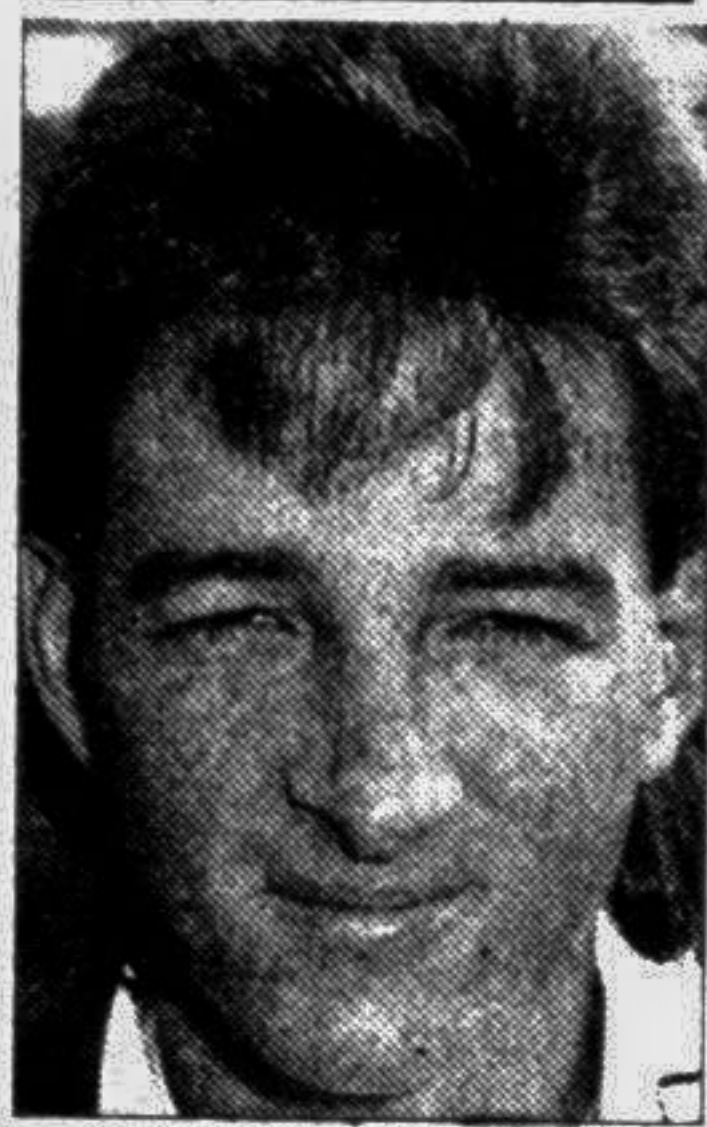
THAT for the past few days promoters have been doing extensive publicity of Formula 1 powerboat racing world championship.

So, as professor, I tried to get a few facts. For one thing, F1 powerboats have very few controls. The steering wheel is like that of a car; a throttle controls the speed; a trimmer controls the lift of the boat (whatever that means); and there is no brake! I don't believe this.

I know there are no breaks, you know there are no brakes, but do the ruti-katlas know that? They would be terrified. Actually, most of Dhaka road drivers would do rather well with one of these tunnel hulled catamarans constructed from specialised marine plywood and composite material.

No breaks, wow! But, seriously, powerboats are finely balanced crafts that are strong enough to withstand the punishment of racing over comparatively rough water at 140 mph. The boats are about 19 feet long and weigh around 860 pounds. Poor ruti, sorry katal!

SPORTS TALK



Mark Waugh

(Australia's master batsman) "I wanted to emulate Steve since he came before me. We are twins and have the same ability. I thought, if he could play for Australia, I can play too. But he got there a little before me, there are only six spots in the batting order. Obviously we can't do everything at the same time."

Admitting that he wanted to emulate twin brother Steve's achievements in cricket.

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-36 Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. May 10, 1996)

Table with 5 questions about sports events and winners.

Name, Class, Roll No, School Address, Phone fields.

Azlan Shah Cup India beat Malaysia

IPOH, May 8: Holders India struck three goals in a five-minute first-half blitz and then staved off Malaysia's spirited second-half rally to win 3-2 and carve out their first win in the seventh Azlan Shah hockey championship here today, reports PTL.

Hard-working Sarabjeet Singh (Sr) gave lethal finishing touches twice and inside-right Sabu Varkey sounded the boards with a delightful solo in between to hoist a 3-0 lead just 15 minutes into game.

But the Malaysians brought down to earth yesterday when the formidable Australia pummelled them 7-1 regrouped into the second session and struck twice through captain Nasruddin's penalty corner conversion and another field goal by the brilliant forward Nawawi.



Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation vice-president Majjadul Anam briefing the press on the eve of the Dhumketu basketball tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.

George jives day's tune

Sports Reporter

Tangail, Bogra and Sherpur were off to flying starts in the 22nd Pepsi national cricket championship when they posted identical five-wicket wins over their respective zonal opponents at different venues across the country yesterday.

In a Dhaka Zonal engagement at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, title aspirants Tangail outclassed Chudanga with George returning with a fantastic bowling figures of 1.5-1-0-3.

In a low-scoring affair, Tangail, aided by some accurate bowling from George, Shamim, Babul and Shaifque, skittled Chudanga out for a paltry 111 in 33.5 overs. George apart, the other three chipped in with two wickets apiece.

In reply, Tangail, facing a simple task of scoring less than three runs per over, rattled up the victory 112/5 in 29.5 overs with Rafique scoring an unbeaten 28.

Away in Dinaipur in a zone a

match, Bogra brushed aside a tough challenge from Kurigram to win a curtailed 20-over-a-side match with more than two overs to spare.

Sent into bat on a damp pitch, Kurigram could muster a modest 86/9 before they exhausted their quota of 20 overs. Motahar Hossain with 23 and Sumit 21, were the only 20-plus contributors to the losers total. For Bogra Romel claimed three wickets for only 12 runs.

In reply, Bogra posted the required 87 for the loss of five wickets and with 17 balls to spare. Shuvo with a rapid-fire 21 was the top scorer for the winners.

At Comilla in a Zone C engagement, Sherpur rode on two valiant unbeaten knocks from Ashraf and Tarun to beat Rajbari by five wickets.

Sherpur, who had earlier restricted Rajbari to a modest 119, made a mess in their chase for an easy target before the two propelled them to victory in 38.4 overs.

Ashraf scored a dazzling 45 while Tarun remained un-

beaten on a plucky 29.

Earlier, electing to use the wicket in the morning, Rajbari found the going tough in the face of some controlled bowling from John, Rakib and Romel, who shared seven wickets among them.

John took three for 28 while Rakib and Romel got two wickets each. For Rajbari, Madhu scored highest 27 followed by Khokon, who remained unconquered on 23.

In Barisal, Khulna recorded a thumping seven-wicket win over Magura in a Zone E affair. With the bowlers dominating the proceeding, Magura, who went into bat in the morning, were shot out for a meagre 81 in 33.5 overs.

Milon, who spearheaded the Khulna attack, finished with three for only 14 runs. He was well-supported by Shaheen and Salahuddin, who chipped in with two wickets apiece.

In reply, the strong Khulna outfit posted the victory 82/3 in only 18 overs with their Tuhin duo scoring 26 and 20 respectively.



Jon Jones three-time Formula One powerboat world champion.

Powerboats and Jon Jones

The ten rounds of the 1996 Formula One Powerboat World Championship will see boats competing in countries throughout the world, says a press release.

In previous seasons the World Championship winners have been as follows:

Table listing winners of the Formula One Powerboat World Championship from 1986 to 1995.

Each Grand Prix weekend takes the form of qualifying sessions the day before the race, which decides the all important starting positions for the following day. On race day morning, the boats take part in a warm-up session before the actual Grand Prix start. Each event usually lasts approximately 45 minutes.

Profile of Jon Jones: Age 39, Date of Birth 9 March 1957, Married - three children, Career highlights from 1977 to 1995.

Meet the Russian torpedo

MOSCOW, May 8 (Reuters): Russian defender Yuri Nikiforov, once singled out as a future star by Pele, is starting to fulfill those high expectations just in time for the European Championship finals.

The 25-year-old Spartak Moscow powerhouse is playing some of the best football of his life and developing a knack of scoring goals as well as preventing them.

The only cloud on the horizon is a one-match suspension that rules him out of Russia's opening Group C match against Italy in Liverpool on June 11. Pele himself said Nikiforov would be an excellent player and we will see him star at this year's finals, an official at Russia's soccer union said, referring back to Pele's early sighting of Nikiforov almost a decade ago.

Profile of Yuri Nikiforov: Torpedo Moscow striker, born in 1970, began his career as a forward with Chernomorets Odesa. He soon switched to defence and in 1993 joined Spartak where he has won two league titles.

Basketball tourney

Sports Reporter

Hosts Dhumketu Basketball Club will take on Giants in the opening match while Josephites will meet Rangers in the day's other match as the Dhumketu basketball tournament begins at the Dhanmondi wooden floor gymnasium this afternoon.

Professor Rashiduddin Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation, will inaugurate the 10-day tournament at 3:30 pm.

A total of eight teams, divided into two groups, will initially go through the round robin league phase of the meet arranged by Dhumketu Basketball Club to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

The parliamentary teams are:

Group A: Angles Club, Dhumketu Club, The Greys and Giants Club.

Group B: Hornets Club, Rangers Club, Josephites Club and Eagles Club.

BKSP, Scholastica in final

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Krita Shikha Protishthan (BKSP) will take on Scholastica in the Dhaka zone final of the 14th Nirman schools cricket championship tomorrow after both teams had easy sails in their respective semifinals in the capital yesterday.

BKSP appearing in the school-level competition after six years, recorded a convincing 42-run win over Maple Leaf International School at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Scholastica edge past Mirpur Bangla High School by six wickets in the other engagement on the western strip of Residential Model School.

A brilliant half century by opener Sanjay Kumar Chowdhury helped BKSP to score a defendable 191 for eight in the stipulated 35 overs after they were put into bat.

In his 66-ball innings, Sanjay scored 51 runs inclusive of two over-boundaries and six fours before he was unluckily run out after staying on the crease for more than two hours.

Among others, Koton scored 27 and Kabir added 23 to the BKSP account.

Maple Leaf's Rashed Iqbal captured three wickets for 31 runs while Shamim and Salman took one wicket each.

In reply, middle orders let Maple Leaf down as they were bundled out for 149 in 32.2 overs with Shamim hammering highest 49 off 60 deliveries.

Saikat and Kabir of BKSP grabbed two wickets apiece conceding 16 and 31 respectively while Rony and Sanjay captured one wicket each.

In the day's other match, Scholastica won the toss and invited Mirpur Bangla High School bat first.

Due to some superb bowling by Tasabbur (3/22), Nayeem (2/8), Imran (2/11) and Dipro (2/20) of Scholastica, the Mirpurians were bundled out for only 93 in 33 overs.

In reply, Scholastica reached home (94) losing four wickets with more than 16 overs to spare. Shaker (36 n.o) and Ridwan (22) were the leading scorers for the winners.

Nat'l v'ball final round from May 16

Sports Reporter

The final phase of the Multidrive National youth volleyball championship will be held in the capital from May 16 to 20 next, says a press release.

A total of 14 districts will participate in the competition organised by the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation and sponsored by Multidrive Limited. The teams are: Rajbari, Gazipur, Netrokona, Chittagong, Pabna, Naogaon, Dinaipur, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Khulna, Jhenidah, Narail, Kushiya and hosts Dhaka.

Kerrigan expecting a baby

BOSTON, May 8: Figure skater and two-time Olympic medalist Nancy Kerrigan is pregnant, a spokeswoman for the Tour of World Figure Skating Champions said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Kerrigan, 26, is expecting her first child in December, said spokeswoman Elena Doyle. Kerrigan married her agent, Jerry Solomon, 41, last year.

Kerrigan was catapulted to fame when she was attacked six weeks before the 1994 Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. Fellow skater Tanya Harding was later implicated in the assault.

IAAF suspends Japanese athlete for doping

TOKYO, May 8: The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has suspended Japan's top sprinter Yoshitaka Ito from competition for four years after he tested positive for a banned steroid, Japanese officials said today, reports Reuter.

Ito tested positive for a muscle-building substance called methyltestosterone in a drug test by the IAAF in March while he was training in the United States, officials of the Japan Amateur Athletic Federation (JAAF) said.

PAPERCHESS advertisement featuring a chessboard and a photo of Niaz Murshed.

The cup, Italy's only target

ROME, May 8 (Reuters): Italy, drawn in probably the toughest group of the European Championship, return in confident mood to the country in which 30 years ago they suffered the greatest fiasco of their soccer history.

"On our recent results, and on our past, Italy is clearly one of the big favourites along with three other teams: England because they are playing at home, Germany and the Dutch," declared coach Arrigo Sacchi recently.

The Italians are drawn in Group C, playing at Manchester United's Old Trafford stadium and Liverpool's Anfield, against the Germans, Russia and the Czech Republic - all former champions or the heirs of former winners. Italy won the title themselves in 1968.

"I think both Italy and Germany have a 50-50 chance, although at the moment the Italians are more experienced than our team," said Germany coach Berti Vogts last year.

The players were greeted on their return home by angry, disappointed supporters who pelted them with rotten fruit as they came through the airport arrivals lounge.

Two years later Italy's fortunes had revived and they won the 1982 European title in Rome beating Yugoslavia 2-0 in the replayed final after a 1-1 draw.

They had success in the World Cup when they won the 1982 championship in Madrid, but they have had no more joy in the European tournament.

Italy reached the quarterfinals in 1972, and the semifinals in 1988, but failed to qualify for the 1976, 1984 and 1992 championships and booked their place in next



Cup history.

The only goal of the game came after 42 minutes. It was scored by Pak Doo Ik and following Italy's 2-0 win over Chile and their 1-0 loss to the Soviet Union was enough to eliminate the Italians after the first round.

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month's finals as the best of the runners-up after finishing behind group leaders Croatia.

But the three-times world champions, beaten on penalties by Brazil in the 1994 World Cup final, have a history of slow starts that steadily gain momentum - as in the 1994 World Cup when they lost to Ireland in the first round.

Their squad, considerably changed from the World Cup finalists with the introduction of young stars such as Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero, took technically more accomplished and more settled than previously.

Milan's 27-year-old defender Paolo Maldini, who played in the 1994 World Cup final and the only team member left from the 1988 European Championship, will follow in his father's footsteps as Italy captain.

Sacchi, who has tried out more than 70 players in his four-year rule, has made his mind up about 90 per cent of his squad with the only late newcomer likely to be Sampdoria's lethal but uncapped striker Enrico Chiesa.

"In England I will change very little. With the exception of one or two particularly exciting youngsters, the players going to the championship will be those who got us through the qualifying stages," Sacchi declared.

"But if I think any of them are not playing well at club level, or is not in the best mental and physical shape, I will have no problem in leaving them at home."

Last year's champions Juventus dominate the likely 22-man squad with this year's Serie A winners Milan, and Parma, taking up many of the remaining places.

Being knocked out of the European club competitions relatively early for Italian teams club be an important stimulus for the Milan and Parma players eager to show they are still the best, although Milan's World Cup midfielder Roberto Baggio may have no chance.

"The divine ponytail" can no longer count on a place in the team and may not even make the squad.

"He is not having one of his better years. I hope he gets back quickly but he will have to show he is in good condition, otherwise it's not in his interests to be in the team," said Sacchi after leaving him out of a recent gathering.

The main target men will be Del Piero, the sensational 21-year-old who will be in the role of attacking midfielder, and silver-haired club teammate Fabrizio Ravanelli.

"Del Piero is a number 10 who scores beautiful goals and then in the next moment covers on the wing," said Sacchi.

Sacchi has a surfeit of forwards, with Lazio's Giuseppe Signori back in scoring form after a recent slump, his club team mate Pierluigi Casiraghi and Parma's Gianfranco Zola who scored many of the goals in the qualifying stages.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer and CRYPTOQUIP puzzle with solutions.