

Law, Gooch whack Lancs

LONDON, June 7: Australian Stuart Law and former England captain Graham Gooch were in sparkling form on Thursday, both hitting centuries as Essex reached an impressive 448 for six on the first day of their country championship match against Lancashire, reports Reuter.

Gooch only just missed a hundred before lunch and fell shortly after for 101, his 122nd first-class century, having hit 18 boundaries in his 137-ball stay.

He added 175 for the second wicket with Paul Grayson who struck a career best 129 and, after Gooch's departure, went on to add 205 with Law. The Australian's 144, which came from 164 deliveries and included three sixes and 18 fours, was his sixth century in his last 11 innings in all cricket.

Meanwhile, the battle at the top of the table between Kent and Leicestershire, the only game completing its second day, was evenly poised. Replying to Kent's 324, Leicestershire closed on 321 for seven thanks to a fine 82 from West Indian Phil Simmons and 117 not out from Ben Smith.

Elsewhere there were plenty of runs around the country. At Southampton, Chris Adams (213 not out) and Adrian Rollins (131) took advantage of a good batting strip to add 298 for the second wicket as Derbyshire closed on 389 for four against Hampshire.

There were also hundreds for Northamptonshire skipper Bob Bailey who hit 111 against Nottinghamshire and Yorkshireman Michael Vaughan who hit 135 against Surrey. And the veteran Sussex pair of Allan Wells (113) and Bill Athey (102) also made the most of the sunshine during a partnership of 196 against Durham.

The only teams to miss out on the run glut were Glamorgan, who were bowled out for 238 by Middlesex and reigning champions Warwickshire, who were dismissed for 255 by Somerset for whom former England Paceman Andy Caddick produced the best bowling return of the day with five for 76. By the close Somerset were 104 for four.

Cuban duo set track afire

SEVILLE, Spain, June 7: Cuban athletes Elicer Urrutia and Ana Fidelia Quiro dominated the field at the Seville Grand Prix athletics meeting on Thursday, both coming close to setting new annual bests in their respective fields, reports Reuter.

Urrutia achieved the second best result of the year with a 17.70 metre, triple jump which put him ahead of compatriot Yoelbis Quesada.

Quiro registered the third best time of the year in the women's 800 metres, cruising in ahead of Bulgaria's Natalya Dukova with a time of one minute 58.93 seconds in a race which demonstrated she was ready for the Olympic challenge at Atlanta.

North Africans dominated in the long distance races, despite some strong Spanish competition.

Kenyan Wilson Kipketer set his best time of the season in the men's 3,000 metres steeplechase with a time of 8:16.81.

Moroccan Hicham el Gheroudi won the men's 1,500 metres in 3:32.94, almost three seconds ahead of Spain's Fermín Cacho, who like his compatriot Mateo Canellas nonetheless achieved his best time of the season, five seconds better than his previous best.

Andre Cason of the US caused few ripples with his 100 metres win in 10.30 seconds.

ACOG's ignorance

ATLANTA, June 7: About 170,000 tickets to events during the Summer Olympic Games have the wrong times printed on them because the schedule changed after the tickets were printed, organisers said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) said, times are incorrectly listed on tickets to handball, track and field, women's basketball, beach volleyball, fencing and modern pentathlon events.

Ticket holders who show up for the August 4 team handball finals at the time listed on the ticket will find the players gone because the competition will take place four hours earlier.

Abdin wins

LAS VEGAS, June 7: Undefeated heavyweight Ahmad Abdin, who fought his opponent to a draw 15 months ago, stopped Will Hinton in the fourth round Thursday night, reports AP.

Abdin hurt Hinton with a right to the head and followed with a barrage of body blows that backed his opponent into the ropes. Referee Toby Gibson halted the scheduled 10-rounder at the Aladdin at 2:42 of the fourth.

Abdin, 234 pounds (106 kilograms), a Syrian native who lives in Houston, improved his record to 21-0-3 with eight knockouts. Hinton, 230 pounds (104 kilograms), of Aurora, Colorado, dropped to 15-8, with seven knockouts.

Abdin was leading by three points on two of three judges' scorecards and by one point on the other.

England dismissed for 313



BIRMINGHAM, England, June 7: England, replying to India's first innings score of 214, were all out for 313 on the second day of the first Test at Edgbaston today, reports Reuter.

Scores: India 214 (J Srinath 52; D Cork 4-61); England 313 (N Hussain 128).

Earlier on Thursday, Derbyshire all-rounder Dominic Cork grabbed four wickets as England stole the honours at the close of the opening day.

Cork took four for 61, including the prize wicket of Sachin Tendulkar, and was well-backed up by England's three other pace bowlers as India, who won the toss and chose to bat first, were bowled out for just 214.

Mike Atherton (30 not out) and Nick Knight (27 not out) then batted through 19 overs without problem to take England to 60 without loss at the close of play.

But it was England's performance in the field which caught the eye.

The pace bowling quartet of debutants Alan Mullally and Ronnie Irani plus Cork and Chris Lewis shared the wickets as they took full advantage of overcast conditions and some sloppy Indian batting.

The Indians have played only three tests since December 1994 and it showed as they went about their innings in cavalier one-day fashion.

From the moment that opening batsman Ajay Jadeja fell for a duck, edging a loose drive to Mike Atherton in the gully, India struggled to establish their innings.

Nasser Hussain spilled a relatively simple chance from Vikram Rathore in the second over off Cork but that was the

only blemish in the field. Knight picked up three catches, one of them outstanding while Atherton collected a second with a marvellous diving effort in the gully to remove Sanjay Manjrekar.

By lunch India had slipped to 80 for three as Knight snapped up Rathore off Cork for 20 and then brilliantly dived to his left at midwicket to remove Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin for 13. That wicket gave Irani his first Test victim with his fifth ball in international cricket.



NASSER HUSSAIN ... 128

The crucial breakthrough, though, came shortly after lunch when Sachin Tendulkar played all round a straight ball from Cork and was bowled for 24.

Left-arm seamer Mullally got in to the act by bowling Nayan Mongia for 20 and having Sunhil Joshi caught by Graham Thorpe at slip.

Lewis chipped in with his second wicket when Manjrekar, having left the field during the morning with an ankle injury, returned to make

23 before slashing hard to Atherton.

Cork collected his third scalp when Knight took his third catch to remove Anil Kumble and India were in deep trouble at 150 for eight.

A gusty ninth wicket partnership of 53 between Jagavala Srinath and Paras Mhambre at least took India past the 200 mark. But when Mullally came across the wicket he had Srinath caught behind by Jack Russell for a well-deserved 52 and Cork wrapped up the innings when Mhambre edge to Thorpe in the slips.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the first cricket Test between India and England on Thursday:

INDIA: First innings

V Rathore c Knight b Cork	20
A Jadeja c Atherton b Lewis	0
S Manjrekar c Atherton b Lewis	23
S Tendulkar c Cork	24
M Azharuddin c Knight b Irani	13
N Mongia b Mullally	20
S Joshi c Thorpe b Mullally	12
A Kumble c Knight b Cork	5
J Srinath c Russell b Mullally	52
P Mhambre c Thorpe b Cork	28
V Prasad not out	0
Extras (lb-3, lb-10, nb-4)	17
Total (69.1 overs)	214

Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-41; 3-64; 4-93; 5-103; 6-118; 7-127; 8-150; 9-203.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Lewis	18	2	44	2
Cork	20.1	5	61	4
Mullally	22	7	60	3
Irani	7	4	22	1
Patel	2	0	14	0

ENGLAND: First innings

N Knight not out

M Atherton not out

Extras: (lb-1, nb-1)

Total: (19 overs)

27

27

31

2

60.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Srinath	6	0	25	0
Prasad	7	2	7	0
Kumble	4	0	21	0
Mhambre	2	0	6	0

(incomplete)

Kafelnikov, Stich in final

PARIS, June 7: Sixth seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia upset top seed Pete Sampras 7-6 (7-4), 6-0, 6-2 in the French Open semifinals today to set up a final with German Michael Stich, reports Reuter.

Stich reached his first final here when he beat Switzerland's Olympic champion Marc Rosset 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in one hour 34 minutes on the Roland Garros Centre Court.

The 15th-seeded 1991 Wimbledon champion, who posted his title pretension by dethroning defending champion Thomas Muster in the fourth round.

Forget & Hlasek in doubles final

PARIS, June 7: Top-seeded Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde of Australia crashed out of the men's doubles when they were beaten 3-6, 6-4, 4-6 in the semifinals by fifth-seeds Guy Forget of France and Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, reports AFP.

But they were far from happy with the upset.

Forget and Hlasek rallied after losing the second set of an ill-tempered match which turned against the Australians after a line call went against them in the closing stages of the match.

"We both thought the ball was out. If we'd got that game, that could have changed things," Woodforde reflected afterwards, saying he had told the umpire to "Get down and do your job properly."

But the Australians conceded that their opponents had played the better tennis.

Forget and Hlasek now play seventh-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic in the final.

Kafelnikov, who has also reached his last four of the singles, and Vacek won their semifinal against unseeded Americans Jared Palmer and Jonathan Stark 6-4, 7-6 (7/4).

Tennis' elite enter Atlanta

PARIS, June 7: The International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced a strong field for next month's Olympic tennis tournament in Atlanta, headed by men's world number one Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf, who tops the women's rankings, reports AFP.

In all, 53 countries have entered players for the event, which opens at the Olympic tennis facility at Atlanta's Stone Mountain Park on July 23.

In the men's singles, Sampras, who will be looking to dethrone Switzerland's Marc Rosset, who won gold in Barcelona in 1992, while other leading medal contenders for the men's singles include Paris Open semifinalist Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia and the 1988 bronze medal winner Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia.

In the women's event, Graf, who won gold in Seoul in 1988 to complete a "Golden" Grand Slam, can expect her main threat to come from Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain and world number one Monica Seles of the United States.

The 1992 gold medalist Jenifer Capriati of the United States, who staged a return to the tour in February after playing only one match since her first round loss at the 1993 United States Open, has not qualified this time.

In the men's doubles, Germans Boris Becker and Michael Stich, who took the gold in Barcelona will not be defending their title and their absence could leave the way open for top-ranked Australians Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde.

Gigi Fernandez of the United States will be targeting a second gold in the women's doubles — this time alongside Lindsay Davenport. She partnered Mary Joe Fernandez four years ago.

Lin getting into her stride

BEIJING, June 7: Lin Li, China's Olympic swimming champion and world record holder, is rapidly regaining form since resuming training four months ago, Xinhua news agency said today, reports Reuter.

The players were at odds

Reuter.



German Michael Stich makes a forehand return against Swiss Marc Rosset during their men's singles semifinals match of the French Open at Roland Garros yesterday.

— AFP/UNB photo

Rivalry on clay renewed

PARIS, June 7: Steffi Graf outlasted Conchita Martinez in just over an hour to set up a rematch of last year's final against Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario at the French Open on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The German top seed cruised into her eighth final at Roland Garros 6-3, 6-1 while Sanchez-Vicario, who she beat last year to win her fourth title here, dismissed doubles partner Jana Novotna 6-3, 7-5.