

Sport

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Hristo Stoichkov

(Bulgaria's mercurial marksman)

"I am genial, but mad too. No one knows what to expect from me — not even me."

On his explosive temperament.

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT Victor Onopko, Russia's 1992 and 1993 Footballer of the Year, left Mitsubishi Pajero from under the windows of his Moscow apartment. Onopko was furious and hurt, and decided to go where a man can feel secure for his family and his property. The Moscow Spartak captain thought he had enough.

So, Ukraine-born Onopko went to Spain and joined Oviedo.

I wonder why he never thought of having a garage for his Pajero. Or, a car theft alarm? Or, why couldn't he buy Lada like all the other Russians.

But, the good news is that the 26-year-old Onopko is still captain of Russia.

Why did he go to Spain for security? I can imagine General Franco turning in his grave.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-42

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes 8 p.m. June 21, 1996)

1. The winner of the women's high jump gold in 24th national athletics is		
Kalyana	Natalia	Kahina
2. The girl's champion in the school badminton tournament '96 is		
Rukhsa		
6 times	2 times	3 times
4. Kafalnikov won the 1996 French Open tennis title by winning the final against		
Sampars	Muster	Sieben
5. West Germany won the first of their football World Cups in	1984	1994

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (if any) _____

Super Eights cricket

Border to skipper Malaysia

SYDNEY, June 19: Former Australian captain Allan Border will captain Malaysia in the inaugural Super Eights cricket tournament to be played in Kuala Lumpur next month, reports Reuter.

Border, who captained Australia a record 93 times in his 156 Tests, leads a Malaysian invitation side which also includes Sri Lankan World Cup heroes Sanath Jayasuriya, Aravinda de Silva and Chaminda Vaas.

Mark Taylor leads and Australian side including six of the side who lost to Sri Lanka in the World Cup final last match.

India, New Zealand, South Africa and an Australian A side will also field teams in the tournament to be played from July 1996-21. All matches will consist to two innings of 14 overs each.

Johnson gunning for Reynolds' record

Atlanta, June 19: Double world champion Michael Johnson will wipe out Butch Reynolds' eight-year-old 400 metres world record at the US Olympic trials on Wednesday. His coach predicted Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Lord's Test begins today

**L**ONDON, June 19: It's crisis time for India as they prepare for the second Test against England which begins at Lord's on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Their tour is rapidly turning into a disaster. After suffering the shivering cold of May, the Indians were surprisingly outplayed in the three one-day internationals, which they lost 2-0, and then went down at Edgbaston to an eight-wicket defeat in the first Test.

As if that was not enough, team morale has been seriously damaged.

First it was the decision of experienced opening batsman Navjot Sidhu to quit international cricket in a fit of pique and go home after being left out of the second one-day international.

Then, last weekend, there was a resounding 10-wicket defeat inside three days at the hands of Derbyshire, a humiliation which could have smashed the fragile veneer of team spirit.

Now the pressure is very definitely on the Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin. Another defeat and his tenure may be over.

It doesn't help his cause that this Test is to be played at Lord's the venue of his worst nightmare six years ago. Winning the toss, he put England in to bat and watched as Graham Gooch used a perfect pitch to ease his way to 333 in an England total of 653 for four declared.

India saved the follow-on thanks, in part to a sublime hundred from Azharuddin and four successive sixes from Kapil Dev when 24 were still needed. But another Gooch hundred put England out of reach. They won the Test and it proved to be decisive as the other two Tests ended as draws.

Azharuddin's problems stem from the balance of the team — a top-sided batting order in which only the brilliance of Sachin Tendulkar has shone through. And a bowling attack which, with the worthy exception of Javagal Srinath, has failed to worry the English bats.

Sidhu has been sorely missed at the top of the order and, in an attempt to make the start of the innings a little more secure, Nayan Mongia may well go in first even though wicketkeepers have traditionally struggled when asked to open in the five-day game.

It would help, as well, if Azharuddin could find some form with the bat. Warwickshire's Nick Knight was forced to withdraw because of a cracked knuckle on England, by contrast are for

one in the unfamiliar role of favourites. After the dismal performances in South Africa and at the World Cup, there is a distinct feeling of rejuvenation.

The men brought into the

Tuesday and Alec Stewart will open.

For one man it will be a last chance to taste the sharp end of international cricket, umpire Dickie Bird, standing in his 66th Test, retires after 23

years.

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