

Sussex cricketer tests positive

LONDON, June 24: A Sussex county cricketer has tested positive after a random drugs test, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The name of the player was not revealed because the result of a second urine test had not been determined.

Two samples are routinely taken at random testing in county cricket, and the player concerned was chosen to produce the samples during Sussex's championship match against Kent at Tunbridge Wells in late May.

Sussex on Sunday said it had been notified of the finding.

"I really cannot comment further to what Lord's have indicated," club secretary Nigel Bett said. "Obviously we want this to be dealt with as soon as possible."

"I hope the identity of the player can be kept from being made public because it would be very unfair to name him at this stage."

"I would hope that everyone would respect the fact that another Test still has to be carried out."

Yorkshire left-arm spinner Richard Stemp returned a positive test five years ago, but authorities then accepted his explanation that a drink had been spiked at a party.



Mike Atherton the England skipper watches anxiously as the ball goes high in the air while Rahul Dravid at forward short leg anticipates a catch during the fourth day of the second Test at Lord's on June 23. — AFP/UNB photo

Tame draw at Lord's

LONDON, June 24: The second Test between England and India ended in a draw at Lord's today, reports Reuter.

Scores: England 344 and 278-9 declared, India 429.

England lead the three-match series 1-0.

Earlier, an Indian victory on the final day seemed unlikely, but not impossible, after the tourists grabbed a seventh England wicket just before tea to have the home side 230 for seven.

England wicketkeeper Jack Russell, who scored a gritty century in the first innings, shared what could be a match-saving 60-run partnership with Ronnie Irani to keep his team all but safe from defeat.

Irani, who scored a solid and patient 41, was bowled by Paras Mhambrey two overs before the tea break to keep India's slim chances of victory alive.

As in the first innings, Russell came to the crease with England in trouble at 168 for six, having lost four wickets in the first session.

The first to go was Alec Stewart, who in the second over of the day, edged a Sri-nath delivery onto his stumps after adding just one run to his overnight score of 65.

Graham Thorpe, who scored 89 in England's first innings, then joined night-watcher Peter Martin, and slowly pushed the score past the 150 mark.

Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who bowled Atherton on Sunday, went around the wicket to the left-handed Thorpe and made a delivery hit sharply. Thorpe couldn't control the rising ball and supplied Vikram Rathore with a catch at short leg, making it 154 for four.

Graeme Hick lasted only 35 dull minutes before seamer Venkatesh Prasad also found extra bounce forcing Hick to edge the rising delivery through to keeper Nayan Mongia with the score 167 for five.

Prasad's next over was a wicket maiden. He ended the two-hour innings of Martin (23) who edged yet another sharp rising delivery to Rathore at second slip.

Russell, 14 not out at the final break, was wicketed badly by a short pitched Srinath delivery during his innings, but typically, stayed on to fight to save his country.

On Sunday, a brisk 65 from Surrey's Alec Stewart helped England to 113 for two in their second innings on the fourth day.

Stewart, a late addition to the side after a fractured finger ruled out Warwickshire opener Nick Knight, weathered a lively opening spell from pacemen Jagavall Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad before scoring freely off the leg-spin of Anil Kumble.

In contrast, skipper Mike Atherton never looked at ease at the crease, taking a nasty blow on his right index finger before tea before falling to Kumble for 17.

Nasser Hussain, England's batting hero in the first innings at Edgbaston, went for 28, caught at point by Rahul Dravid after leaving his bat in the way of a bouncer from Srinath.

Nightwatchman Peter Martin survived with one run, and England take a 28-run lead into today's final day.

Earlier Dravid had steered India to an 85-run first innings lead, falling by just five runs to cap his Test debut with a century.

Dravid, who on Saturday watched fellow debutant Saurav Ganguly hit an elegant 131 as India advanced on their first innings target of 344, frustrated the English attack, carving out a series of dogged stands with the Indian tallenders.

He finally fell for 95, edging an outswinger from Chris Lewis to Jack Russell behind the stumps.

Jagavall Srinath hit 19 before falling to Alan Mullally for the eighth wicket, and after Dravid's departure, Paras Mhambrey and Venkatesh Prasad added another 10 runs for the final wicket, leaving India on 429.

Mullally and Chris Lewis took three wickets each, for 71 and 101 respectively, and Dominic Cork was unlucky to finish with just two for 112 from 42 overs.

Stewart's return to form poses a problem for the England selectors with Knight likely to be fit again for the third Test at Trent Bridge, Nottingham.

But England coach David Lloyd said he didn't mind that. "I hope he's going to carry on... he's a good solid profes-

Kulti pockets Halle title

HALLE, Germany, June 24: Sweden's Nicklas Kulti damped Yevgeny Kafelnikov's Wimbledon by beating the French Open champion in three sets to win the 8,750,000 dollars grass court tennis tournament in Halle on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Kulti, the 1989 Wimbledon and Australian Open junior champion who had come through the qualifying tournament in Halle, produced solid serve-and-volley tennis and pounced on the Russian's lapses to run out a 6-7, 6-3, 6-4 winner.

But Kafelnikov, playing with a bandaged left knee to protect a slight muscle strain, did enough during the week to show that he had the volleying skills to launch a credible challenge on Wimbledon's fast grass next week.

The Russian essentially a baseliner most at home on clay, will bid to become the first player since Bjorn Borg in 1980 to record back-to-back wins in the French Open, played on slow clay, and Wimbledon.

Kafelnikov, who had survived five match points against Magnus Larsson in the quarter-final, fended off four more against Kulti on his own service at 3-5 in the final set.

But Kulti, who beat Wimbledon hopeful Richey Reneberg in the semifinal, produced his 12th and 13th aces and a service winner to go to 40-30 in the final game. Kafelnikov then netted a return as he went for broke on yet another big Kulti service.

Cappellini claims pole position

CHALON-SUR-SAONE, France, June 24: Italian driver, Cappellini looks set to continue his domination of this year's World Championship series by claiming pole position for tomorrow's Grand Prix of France, says a press release.

On the beautiful River Saone

John Player Gold Leaf team were put into turmoil after Jon Jones barrel rolled in this morning's free practice session. Luckily, he managed to escape from the accident without any personal damage, but his boat didn't and the team had to change boats for the qualifying session. Jones starts the race in eighth, but the circuit in Chalon is one of his favourites and he is confident of performing well in the race.

Teammate Paul Blackburn struggled to control his new boat at the turns and failed to impress on the field and starts back in fifteenth position.

Jamaica beat Barbados

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, June 24: Jamaica beat Barbados 1-0 (halftime 0-0) in the first leg of their World Cup Caribbean zone, third round qualifier yesterday, reports Reuter.

Score: Walter Boyd (89th minute).

Winston bedevils Northants

LONDON, June 24: West Indies fast bowler Winston Benjamin started with the bat with a blistering century for Hampshire to send Sunday League leaders Northamptonshire sliding to their first defeat of the season, reports Reuter.

Benjamin, playing purely as a batsman because of a shoulder injury, responded in superb fashion, hitting an unbeaten 104 from only 71 deliveries.

He ensured Hampshire's victory by hitting fellow Antiguan Curtly Ambrose back over his head for six as Hampshire won by seven wickets in the 33rd over.

Benjamin's innings included three other sixes and 13 fours and overshadowed another Sunday-best performance from teammate Cardigan Connor who took five for 25 from his eight overs as Northamptonshire slumped to 169 all out.

Australian Tom Moody led Worcestershire to an emphatic seven wicket victory over hapless Somerset at Bath.

Moody opened both the bowling and the batting for his side, following up three for 27

US Olympic diving coach under fire

INDIANAPOLIS, June 24 (AP): The US Olympic diving trials ended Sunday with one of the two qualifiers in the 10-metre platform event accusing the Olympic coach of harassment, assault and "sheer hell."

Less than an hour after becoming the final diver selected for the Atlanta Games, David Pichler embraced his teammates under a giant American flag in a picture of harmony before proceeding to turn the trials upside down.

Cricketers' N America tour delayed

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh national cricket team, which was due to leave for a month-long tour of USA and Canada last night, has delayed their departure by four days.

According to a press release of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board yesterday which did not specify any reason for the delay, the team will now leave the capital next Friday (June 28).

Talking to our correspondent, a senior BCCB official said that this has been done at the request of their American counterparts (organisers). The BCCB official also informed that the tourists' first engagement against Guyana, which was scheduled in New York on June 28, has been shifted to June 30. The remainder of the itinerary remains unchanged.

In another press release, the BCCB have stopped the on-going camp for the under-15s due to inclement weather. The camp will resume from July 17.

Age-group swimming

Sports Reporter

The inter-divisional age-group women's swimming Championships, organised by the Bangladesh Women Sports Association (BWSA), commences this morning at the association's swimming pool, Dhanmondi.

A S M Shahjahan, secretary for Youth and Sports, will inaugurate the two-day meet at 9 am as the chief guest.

Martina to play mixed doubles

LONDON, June 24: Nine-times singles champion Martina Navratilova went by the form book on Sunday by tipping top seeds Steffi Graf and Pete Sampras to win singles titles at this year's Wimbledon which starts today, reports Reuter.

Navratilova, who retired from singles at Wimbledon in 1994, will play only in the mixed doubles this year.

She will join with fellow American Jonathan Stark to try to win a record-breaking 20th title and break the mark she shares with Billie Jean King. She and Stark won the event last year.

The first round of the mixed doubles will be the 39-year-old Navratilova's first competitive match this year.

Speaking on a television breakfast programme, Navratilova said: "I can't imagine Steffi or Pete not winning. But I think the first week will be very dangerous."

"I know Steffi says her knee is hurting, but something has been hurting with her for years. If you believe the newspapers, she should have been in the hospital, but if you look at her she is running like a gazelle."

"I think Monica Seles can be dangerous and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario will be hungrier than any of them."

She said she had no intention of playing singles again.

"I said I would play the occasional doubles or mixed doubles and that is precisely what I have done," she said.

"I will be playing the mixed doubles, or as we call it the mixed troubles."

Koepke Barca bound

BONN, June 24: Germany goalkeeper Andreas Koepke has agreed a two-year contract with Barcelona, reports Reuter.

His manager Karl Ortengel said on Sunday that he had agreed the contract, with an option for a further year, on Koepke's behalf.

The Eintracht Frankfurt goalkeeper had appeared set to join 1992 German champions VfB Stuttgart. But Barcelona made Koepke an offer after their new coach Bobby Robson failed to take Portugal goalkeeper Vitor Baia with him from Porto.

Ortengel said he did not expect problems with Stuttgart, who say they had reached an understanding with Koepke.

"We didn't sign anything there, so we are very relaxed about the situation," he said.

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Japan's Kyoko Nagatsuka goes for a forehand during her first round match against compatriot Kimiko Date at Wimbledon championships Monday. Date won 6-0, 6-3. — AFP/UNB photo

Seeds stumble on Day One

Sports Reporter

Defending champion Pete Sampras began his quest for a fourth consecutive All-England title with a hard-fought four-set victory over American doubles specialist Richey Reneberg on Day One, according to Star TV. Monitored here last night.

On a packed Centre-Court, the world No.1 got off to slow start losing the first set 4-6.

But the American shook off the loss by using his blistering serves and penetrating groundstrokes to win the next three sets 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

While Sampras was lucky to claw back into his match, two other seeds fell at the first hurdle.

American Michael Chang, the sixth seed lost a see-saw encounter against clay-court specialist Alberto Costa of Spain.

After winning the first set 6-3, Chang a former French Open winner, lost the momentum and allowed the Spaniard to get back into the match 6-7, 6-7 and 6-4.

1992 champion Jim Courier was sent packing by another doubles specialist Jonathan Stark of the United States.

The former world number one lost an absorbing tussle 2-6, 4-6, 6-2, 4-6.

Last year's finalist Boris Becker still searching an elusive fourth crown, began in convincing fashion winning his first round engagement against Frenchman Jean-Philippe Fleurian.

The second seeded German posted a straight 6-0, 6-2, 6-3 sets victory.

Big-serving Croatian Goran Ivanisevic used his traditional power game to also dispatch his opponent easily 6-2, 6-0, 6-2.

Third seeded American Andre Agassi joined the casualty list going down to fellow American Doug Flach in a five set thriller.

The popular Las Vegas lost 6-2, 6-7, 4-6, 5-6 and 6-7.

On the women's side, second seeded Monica Seles who has yet to win the premier grass-court Grand Slam trophy, comfortably beat American Ann Grossman 6-1, 6-2.

In the other matches Spaniard Conchita Martinez, a former champion, beat Italian Silvia Farina without losing a game, while French glamour girl Mary Pierce outclassed Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 6-3, 6-2.

12th-seeded Kimiko Date became the first player to reach the second round when she defeated compatriot Kyoko Nagatsuka, 6-0, 6-3. South Africa's Amanda Coetzer, the 14th seed, advanced with a 6-1, 6-1, win over Elena Wagner of Germany.

Story of a sad Serbian

ATHENS, Ohio, June 24 (AP): An Ohio University swimmer doesn't have a nation to represent at the Olympic Games next month. His homeland, part of the former Yugoslavia, didn't include him as part of its Olympic delegation.

Vlado Kozomara's time of 56:28 seconds in the 100-metre breaststroke at the Mid-American Conference championships broke a school record and would have been fast enough to qualify him for the Olympics.

The 22-year-old senior at Ohio is hoping for a last-minute chance to compete under the Olympic flag, but said that possibility is unlikely.

The rules of the Games allow individuals to compete under the Olympic flag if their nation does not send a delegation.

"I'm still hopeful to represent my country," Kozomara said Thursday. "But it looks out of the question. It's kind of a bummer. But you can't do too much about it."

Kozomara's coach, Greg Werner, said Kozomara had two options, but lost those opportunities when both Yugoslavia and Bosnia decided to send teams.

Kozomara said he will depend on his degree in international business and management information systems to help him make the transformation from swimming to the business world.

"My concentration is shifting from Olympic dream to job dream," he said. "I'm looking forward to finding a job and becoming a successful businessman."

"I would love to stay in swimming and compete in (the Olympics in 2000)," he added. "But I can't make a living off swimming."

"I'm looking forward to finding a good job to help my family financially. Swimming was a great experience, but I know I have to grow out of it."

Sotomayor fails to impress

HAVANA, June 24: Athletes set six meet records Sunday at the Cuba Cup, the Cuban equivalent of an Olympics trials, but world record-holder Javier Sotomayor failed to clear 2.15 metres (7 feet 1 inch) in his first jump is more than a month, reports AP.

Sotomayor, recovering from inflammation in the left knee, tumbled his head on a support bar in his first attempt. Two more attempts to clear the crossbar failed.

"I still have a month" to prepare for the Atlanta Olympics, Sotomayor said. "I'm not lacking any confidence."

"It was a lack of coordination and a lack of practice. It wasn't because of my knee," said Sotomayor's trainer, Guillermo de la Torre.

Sotomayor, 28, holds the world record of 2.45 metres (8 feet 1/2 inches) in the high jump and won the gold in Barcelona in 1992.

Ignacio Hernandez, and Andres Leal tied in the event Sunday with leaps of 2.10 metres (6 feet 10 inches).

Eliceer Urrutia, a 22-year-old prospect in the triple jump, won that event with a leap of 17.33 metres (57 feet 2 inches). Urrutia reached 17.0 metres (58 feet 5 inches) in a Sevilla meet earlier this year.

Cubans Yoelvis Quesada and Yoel Garcia, among the five best in the sport last year, did not compete.

In the women's 4x100-metre relay, Idelia Hechavarria, Aluska Lopez, Dainely Perez and Yoryet Prometa set a new Cuban national record of 45.12 seconds, eclipsing the old mark of 45.60 seconds.

Ivan Garcia, Andres Simon, Erick Batte and Luis Perez Rionda teamed up to set a cup record in the men's 4x100-metre relay, finishing in 39 seconds flat. The old mark was 39.88 seconds.

Alberto Sanchez of Santiago broke his own cup record in the hammer throw with a throw of 77.50 metres (255 feet 9 inches). Raul Duany set a new national record in the decathlon, scoring 8,141 points. The old mark of 8,093 points was set by Eugenio Balanque in 1994.

Magalis Garcia set a cup record in the heptathlon with 6,352 points, bettering the old record of 6,142. Regla Cardenas was second with 6,292 points.

In the javelin throw, Emeterio Gonzales set a cup record toss of 79.04 metres (260 feet 10 inches).

On Saturday, Ivan Garcia broke the cup record in the 200 metres of 20.62 seconds, finishing in 20.39. Alejandro Cardenas of Mexico, training with the Cubans, ran 20.95 seconds and Cuba's Omar Mena finished in 21:00 seconds.

Ana Fidelia Quirot won a slow women's 800 final in 2:02:13, well above her 1993 best of 1:54:44. Iomnet Quintero took the women's high jump with a leap of 1.85 metres (6 feet 1 inch).

Daimi Pernia won the women's 200 in 23:87 seconds. She was trailed by Euse-

Gomez wins The Challenge

PEBBLE BEACH, California, June 24: Andres Gomez knows why he's had so much success against John McEnroe on clay courts: It's the preparation.

"John is a better player on the hard court, but I think if he puts a little more time into his game he can beat anyone on this tour," Gomez said after defeating McEnroe 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 Sunday to win The Challenge, reports AP.

McEnroe, 37, has lost four consecutive matches to Gomez — all on clay — in the Nuveen Tour for players 35 and older.

"If I had been a little more match-tough it would have helped. You have to do the dirty work. I don't really want to play every tournament, so that's the dilemma," McEnroe said.

During the two-hour match against Gomez, McEnroe slipped three times on the clay and challenged numerous calls.

In the deciding game, McEnroe double faulted twice and fell while trying to reach a powerful return by Gomez.

"I haven't caught him on an off-day yet on this surface," McEnroe said. "I still think I have the ability to beat him, but I just haven't been accurate. This surface has a way of making your weaknesses more apparent."

Gomez, 36, is the Nuveen Tour points leader. He challenged McEnroe with his strong serve and a fast pace.

McEnroe used cross-court shots in the second set to open up Gomez's game. Despite gaining control, McEnroe was still testy; he tossed his racket at the net after a short forehand had failed to clear it.



Construction work is going on in full swing at the 136 million dollars Bukit Jalil Stadium in Kuala Lumpur. The stadium is the main venue of the 16th Commonwealth Games due to be held in 1998. — AFP/UNB photo