

## Ind-Hants match washed out

**SOUTHAMPTON, England.** July 1: India were frustrated in their bid to gain some practice before the final Test with England when rain washed out the last day of their match with Hampshire on Monday, reports AP.

Hampshire, resuming at 383 for nine in response to India's total of 362 for five made on the first day, added 75 runs with last pair Martin Thurlfield and Stuart Milburn batting until lunch in a rain-interrupted morning.

Milburn took the opportunity to record the first half century of his career and was 54 not out when the match was declared a draw.

Milburn, whose previous best was a modest 22, hit two sixes off Sachin Tendulkar and Anil Kumble and also struck six fours.

Thursfield was unbeaten with 37 and the last pair had put on 91 when the rain came.

At this stage Hampshire were 96 ahead but any prospects of a positive result were washed out by the down-pour which left pools of water on the pitch and the outfield.

Earlier, Hampshire's Kevin James, who took four wickets from four balls against India on Saturday, made history on Sunday by hitting a century in the same match.

The 35-year-old all-rounder became the first player to take four consecutive wickets and chalk up a hundred in a single first-class game.

James, who began the second day of the three-day match at Southampton on two, hit three sixes and 10 fours during his three-and-a-half hours at the crease. He was finally caught at long-on for 103.

James shared a third-wicket stand of 175 with opening batsman Jason Lacey as Hampshire battled throughout the day to reach 383 for nine at first innings lead of 21.

Lacey fell for 100, caught at leg-slip off the spin of Narendra Hirwani, who had been tipped for a call-up to the Test team to face England at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

But Hirwani failed to impress, taking just one wicket as India again struggled against county opposition.

Medium pacer Salil Ankola was the pick of the bowlers, finishing with four for 107 from 25 overs.

## DeFreitas makes Derby's day

**LONDON, July 1:** Former England all-rounder Phil DeFreitas sent Northamptonshire to their second successive defeat in the Sunday League, smashing 61 not out from just 33 balls for Derbyshire at the Northamptonshire Ground, reports Reuters.

At 146 for six with the overs running out the visitors had looked to be heading for a meagre total.

But DeFreitas and England fast bowler Dominic Cork (17 not out) plundered 74 runs from the last five overs of the innings — including 24 off the 37th over — to give the visitors a healthy final total of 222 for six.

DeFreitas hit three sixes and five fours and then took three for six in a rapidly deteriorating pitch as the hosts crumbled to 132 all out in reply.

Defeat means Northamptonshire slip from the top to be replaced by Middlesex, who enjoyed a comfortable 57-run win at Lord's over county champions Warwickshire.

Paul Weekes and ex-England batsman Mark Ramprakash set Middlesex on their way with a century first-wicket stand, and former England captain Mike Gatting and Jason Pooley added 34 for the third wicket as the home side cruised to 241.

Warwickshire batted poorly in reply and were all out for 184. Things were closer at Old Trafford where a dramatic final over ended with Somerset beating Lancashire by one run.

Somerset batted first and hit a modest 175-7, but Lancashire faltered and needed 21 to win from the final over.

They cracked 18 from Australian Shane Lee's first five deliveries but Gary Yates failed to connect with the final ball and although he ran a bye it was not enough.

At Southend, fourth-placed Surrey failed to take advantage of Northamptonshire's loss as Stuart Law hit his second century for Essex in the space of 24 hours.

The 27-year-old Australian followed up his 125 in a championship match with 110 to help his side to a 27-run triumph.

At the bottom, Durham looked as if they were cruising to their first win of the season against Gloucestershire at Chelster-le-Street. Durham were at 81 for one in reply to Gloucestershire's 180 for seven, but slumped to 176 for eight to lose by four runs.

## '98 Asian Games from Dec 6

**BANGKOK, July 1:** The 1998 Asian Games will open on December 6 and close on December 20, organising officials said on Monday, reports Reuters.

Deputy prime minister Somborn Rahong, chairman of the Asian Games Organising Committee, told reporters 90 per cent of the facilities were now complete and a city expressway linking two main sports venues would be ready on time.

# Pakistanis turn up heat

**PONTYPRIDD, Wales, July 1:** Saeed Anwar and Inzamam-ul-Haq set a new batting record for Pakistan on Sunday, sharing an unbroken 362-run stand for the third wicket against Glamorgan's in experienced bowling attack, report agencies.

The attacking partnership surpassed the 310-run opening stand put together by Mudasar Nazar and Mohsin Khan against Sussex in 1982.

It was also the highest-ever recorded for the third wicket against Glamorgan.

Saeed was unbeaten on 219 when Pakistan captain Wasim Akram declared with his team's total on 461 for two, scored in exactly 98 overs, for a lead of 157.

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Earlier, Hampshire's Kevin James, who took four wickets from four balls against India on Saturday, made history on Sunday by hitting a century in the same match.

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Paul Weekes and ex-England batsman Mark Ramprakash set Middlesex on their way with a century first-wicket stand, and former England captain Mike Gatting and Jason Pooley added 34 for the third wicket as the home side cruised to 241.

Warwickshire batted poorly in reply and were all out for 184. Things were closer at Old Trafford where a dramatic final over ended with Somerset beating Lancashire by one run.

Somerset batted first and hit a modest 175-7, but Lancashire faltered and needed 21 to win from the final over.

They cracked 18 from Australian Shane Lee's first five deliveries but Gary Yates failed to connect with the final ball and although he ran a bye it was not enough.

At Southend, fourth-placed Surrey failed to take advantage of Northamptonshire's loss as Stuart Law hit his second century for Essex in the space of 24 hours.

The 27-year-old Australian followed up his 125 in a championship match with 110 to help his side to a 27-run triumph.

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The left-handed opener was in superb form, cutting and driving the ball with strength and often below-par Glamorgan bowling almost at will, picking his shots and having little difficulty in placing them beyond the reach of the increasingly despairing fielders.

He had faced 286 balls and hit a six and 31 fours when the declaration came and he refused to be overshadowed by his partner's greater power and immaculate timing.

With captain Matthew Maynard suffering from a virus, it was left to Steve James to try to marshal his limited bowling resources and off-spinner Croft will not have fond memories of the unrewarded 129 runs he conceded from his 27 overs.

Glamorgan lost opener Evans for 18, caught off Wasim in the slips, in reaching 34 for one in their second innings at the close of play.

Glamorgan took their over-night score of 34 for one to 60 for two.

Glamorgan opener Steve James gloved a rising delivery from Ataur Rehman to wicket-keeper Rashid Latif for nine, with the total on 42 after 16 overs.

Pakistan will next play Somerset in a three-day match starting on Wednesday.

Inzamam struck two sixes and 24 boundaries to all parts of the ground off the 220 balls he received and was unbeaten on 169 when Wasim relented.

Glamorgan were given a glimmer of hope in the first session of the day, Anwar and Aamir Sohail had taken their opening partnership to 99 when Aamir, on 49, chopped at a wide delivery from Darren Thomas and Alan Evans took a good catch at point.

The luckless Ijaz Ahmed then fell to the first ball he received — without doubt the best delivery of the day — when he got a lifter that moved across him late and edged a catch to Robert Croft at first slip.

It put Pakistan on 99 for two and Thomas on a hat-trick but his next ball went gently down leg side and Glamorgan did not even sniff another chance.

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# Graf, Sanchez in last eight

**WIMBLEDON, England, July 1:** Defending champion Steffi Graf beat 15-year-old Martina Hingis in straight sets Monday to become the first player to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals on a rainy, blustery day, reports AP.

The victory on a day of sporadic showers that made every match a stop-start affair, took the German a step closer to a seventh title and thrust her into a probable quarter-final against the woman she beat for the fifth of those titles in 1993, Czech Jana Novotna.

In a Centre Court match twice suspended by rain, the top-seeded Graf used her big serve and forehand to beat the No 16 Hingis 6-1, 6-4. The match lasted 55 minutes of actual playing time but took 1:45 because of the rain breaks.

The victory avenged the only tournament defeat Graf has suffered this year, a three-set loss to Hingis at the Italian Open in May.

"I think I was probably on top of right from the beginning on," Graf said. "Because I lost my last match against her, I didn't want to give her the chance to get into the match."

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, the fourth seed and last year's runner-up, rallied from a set and 0-2 down to overcome Belgium's Sabine Appelmans, 3-6, 2-6, 6-1.

Graf showed her superiority on grass once again against Hingis. Last year, Graf beat the Swiss teenager in straight sets in the first round. This time, she gave up one more game but still had a much more powerful game.

"When I started to play my better game, it was second set already," Hingis said. "By then it was too late."

## IOC allows Fernandez in

**LONDON, July 1:** Mary Joe Fernandez will be allowed to compete in this month's Summer Games following a change of heart by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), reports Reuters.

The American had wanted to enter the doubles with Gigi Fernandez, defending the title they won in Barcelona in 1992, but was told she would be unable to compete because the United States team already had a maximum four team members.

Monica Seles was among those who campaigned for the decision to be reviewed and the International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced on Monday that "exceptional circumstances" had led the IOC to agree to Fernandez's request.

Linford's bombshell

**LONDON, July 1:** Linford Christie said here on Monday he would defend his Olympic 100 metres title in Atlanta in three weeks, reports AP.

The 36-year-old, who lost his world title to Canada's Donovan Bailey in Gothenburg, Sweden, last year, had been agonising over the decision to run in the Olympics.

"The Olympics come only once every four years and I've not got too far to go," he said. "He said the public response had made up his mind."

"They are the people that matters, who make what I am today," he said.

"Also my coach has spent the last 10, 15 years or so grooming me for this occasion. It's finale and hopefully I'm going to go out there and bring the medal back."

He said he would be going to Atlanta to win.

"I go into every race believing I can win. You've got to be confident. If you're not confident in this world you get into trouble," he said.

"I believe I'm capable of running as fast as it takes to win."

Christie lost to Canada's world champion Bailey and Bruny Surin in Paris last Friday in the biggest race of the season so far.

But the Germans know it is only goals that count, not inspiration.

It was the first time a so-called "golden goal" in extra time had decided a major final.

The Czechs, ranked 66-1 outsiders at the start of Euro '96, delighted fans throughout the tournament with their relaxed attitude to soccer and to life and came close as a whisker to adding Germany to an impressive list of scalps — Italy, Portugal and France.

But there was something inevitable about Germany's triumph even when luck, for once, went against them. The penalty award which led to the Czech goal was clearly shown to be a refereeing error by television replays which indicated Matthias Sammer's foul on Karel Poborsky was well outside the box.

In the end, it would be hard to be grudge their win as they took the field with a team severely depleted by injuries and suspensions and still came out on top.

If the Czechs were the true revelation, several other teams flattered only to deceive in a tournament which ultimately did much the same.

England, France and Spain all flickered brightly for a while and bowed out without losing a match as such, making their exits only after penalty shoot-outs.

Hosts England proved much stronger than even home fans had anticipated, earning fanatical support every time they appeared at Wembley as an entire nation caught up in football fever held its collective breath.

Their devastating 4-1 win over the Netherlands and pul-



A TRUE GERMAN MOMENT: Tennis ace Boris Becker (L), who retired from the Wimbledon Championships due to injury, leaves behind his disappointments to join in his country's celebrations. He is congratulating Stefan Kuntz after the Euro '96 final. —AFP/UNB photo

# THE WIMBLEDON DIARY

**LONDON, July 1 (AFP):** Wimbledon diary on Monday: Triple Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras, renowned for his methodical and professional approach to his sport, leaves little to chance.

He has six rackets strung every day, whether or not he gets on court. Sampras, chasing a fourth straight win at this year's championships, also has his rackets strung at the highest tension of all players — 32 kilos.

The higher the tension the more control a player has, less tension means more power. Stefan Edberg has his strung to 23 kilos and Derrick Rostagno to 15 kilos.

Monica Seles' shock early exit from Wimbledon and the French Open has prompted the joint world number-one to search for a full time fitness trainer.

Seles, 22, who failed to survive the first week at Roland Garros, crashed out in the second round of Wimbledon last week when she was beaten in three sets by Slovakia's Katarina Studenikova.

She also failed in the first round of the women's doubles. Since returning to the tour after a 27-month absence after being stabbed in Hamburg in 1993, Seles has looked out of shape. She will continue to be coached by her father Karol but she wants to find somebody who can get her back into peak condition.

Her doubles partner Betsy Nagelsen said: "Monica has found it difficult to switch back on again at will after being shut down for two years. She is aware that she is not as fit as she used to be and she wants to do something about it."

"It has been a catch 22 situation," Nagelsen added. "She wants to work out but picks up injuries and the injuries then stop her working out."

Although her dad will always be her coach, she has come to the conclusion that she needs somebody travelling with her to train her and look after her body.

Nagelsen, 39, is the wife of International Management Group (IMG) boss Mark McCormack. She joined up with Seles in the doubles but they were beaten by Pam Shriver of the United States and Rosalyn Nideffer of South Africa.

Britain's greatest tennis player, Fred Perry, is to be remembered with a new award. The chairmen of the four Grand Slam tournaments, in association with Perry's widow, Bobby Perry, will present the Fred Perry award to the player who amasses the greatest number of points in the Grand Slam rankings.

Perry died last year at the age of 85. He claimed three Wimbledon and US Open titles, plus one each at the French and Australian Opens.

Japanese number one Shuzo Matsuoka, who took a set off tenth seed Michael Stich before losing in the second round, remains the fastest server at Wimbledon so far this year with a 133 miles per hour (214 kms per hour) effort.