

Glamorgan tail saves the day

LONDON, Aug 13: Glamorgan's last wicket pair of Colin Metson and Neil Kendrick survived the final eight deliveries at Swansea to thwart Leicestershire's attempt to go back to the top of the English

County Championship table on Monday, reports Reuters. Set to score 335, Glamorgan finished on 299 for nine, a position that seemed way beyond them when they looked like having to follow-on on Friday evening.

They at least avoided that indignity, but with the wicket taking spin and Leicestershire having three slow bowlers in their ranks the away side appeared to hold the initiative. But a century from Hugh Morris and some solid support from Matthew Maynard and Otis Gibson tilted the balance before Darren Thomas became the seventh wicket to fall with the total on 280.

Morris reached his fourth first class century of the season off 189 balls in 226 minutes with 17 boundaries before falling leg before to Adrain Pierson for 106.

The dismissal of Gibson, bowled by Greg MacMillan for 42, left Metson and Kendrick in charge of Glamorgan's fate, in spite of up to nine fielders around the bat, the Welsh side survived for their three bonus points.

Leicestershire are second in the table on 191, one behind Surrey and three ahead of Essex.

Derbyshire have moved up to fifth, on 185, after a 47-run victory over Sussex at Hove.

England Test reject Devon Malcolm, who now boasts 61 championship wickets this season, claimed impressive match figures of 10 for 215.

He followed his first innings haul of five for 119 with another five for 96 as Sussex, chasing a target of 276 were dismissed for 228 shortly after lunch.

Champions Warwickshire enjoyed a massive 282-run victory over Durham.

Keegan tries to balance the books

NEWCASTLE, England, Aug 13: Big-spending Newcastle's manager Kevin Keegan started to recoup some of the 15 million pounds spent on Alan Shearer by selling midfielder Robbie Elliott to Blackburn Rovers today, reports AFP.

Elliott has agreed terms with Rovers but his transfer fee is likely to be settled by a tribunal after the clubs failed to agree on a fee.

Subject to a medical, the 22-year-old Georgie will sign for Blackburn in time for Saturday's Premiership opener with Spurs at Wood Park.

Nottingham Forest, Liverpool, and Arsenal have all been linked with Elliott who has been out of contract at Newcastle this summer, but all were put off by the asking price.

The player is the first to be sold by Newcastle since the record-breaking purchase of Shearer and the club will be looking to receive more than three million pounds for the youngster.

Unusual terms!

AVELLINO, Italy, Aug 13: An Argentine striker hoping to join Italian Serie B soccer club Avellino was told he must get a haircut before terms could be disclosed, reports Reuters.

"First get your hair cut, then we'll talk about tests and fees. We've never had room for people with long hair at Avellino," club president Antonio Sibilla told 26-year-old striker Leonardo Ricatti when he arrived on Sunday.

He gave the player a day to "get himself in order."

Ricatti greeted Sibilla's order with a smile, without indicating whether he would comply.

The striker formerly of Argentine clubs Boca Juniors and San Lorenzo, had been recommended to the southern Italian club by compatriot and former Avellino player Ramon Diaz.

WTA's rankings

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Aug 13 (Reuters): Leading women's rankings as issued by the WTA Tour:

1. Monica Seles (U.S.)
2. Steffi Graf (Germany)
3. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)
4. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
5. Iva Majoli (Croatia)
6. Anke Huber (Germany)
7. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
8. Mary Joe Fernandez (U.S.)
9. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic)
10. Chanda Rubin (U.S.)
11. Lindsay Davenport (U.S.)
12. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
13. Mary Pierce (France)
14. Brenda Schuttz-McCarthy (Netherlands)
15. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
16. Barbara Paulus (Austria)
17. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
18. Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
19. Meredith McGrath (U.S.)
20. Julie Hartzel-Dacugis (France)
21. Irina Spirela (Romania)



Nadeem Shahid, the Surrey middle-order bat dispatches a loose delivery from Stuart Law for a four during his side's Nat West Trophy semifinal clash against Essex at The Oval yesterday.

— AFP/UNB photo

Atherton's moment of joy



LEEDS, England, Aug 13: Pakistan maintained their 1-0 series lead over England as the second day of the Test ended in a draw at Headingley on Monday, reports Reuters.

Pakistan eventually reached 242 for seven declared with Inzamam-ul-Haq calming the tourists' morning nerves with an aggressive 65.

At 34 for two and then again at 142 for four which was an overall lead of just 89 — England had faint hopes of pulling off a win, but Ijaz Ahmed (52) and Asif Mujtaba (26) snuffed them out.

Mike Atherton the England captain, helped to pass the last half hour by unveiling his leg breaks for the first time in a Test since 1991.

To his joy he won an lbw verdict against close friend and opposite number Wasim Akram with his 14th delivery.

England now go to the final Test at The Oval next week needing to win it to level the three-match series.

Atherton, who had a Test bowling average of 282 coming into the match, claimed Wasim's wicket for seven to finish with one for 20 from seven overs.

"I came on to bowl thinking

I might get my average over the 300 mark but Wasim spoiled the script," joked Atherton. "I think Wasim read it was a googy."

Wasim said: "I have got him out enough times but I'm going



MIKE ATHERTON

to have to live with this for a few years now he's got me out". England are quoted by bookmakers at 7-2 to win the third Test with Pakistan at 13-8 and draw the favourite at 10-11.

SCORE BOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the second Test between England and Pakistan at Headingley on Monday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 448 (Ijaz Ahmed 141, Moiz Khan 105, Salim Malik 55, Asif Mujtaba 51)

ENGLAND: First innings 501 (A. Stewart 170, N. Knight 113, J. Crawley 53)

PAKISTAN: Second innings Saeed Anwar c Russell b Cork 22

Shadab Kabir c and b Lewis 22

Ijaz Ahmed c Russell b Caddick 52

Inzamamul Haq c Stewart b Caddick 65

Salim Malik c Cork b Caddick 6

Asif Mujtaba run out 26

Wasim Akram lbw b Atherton 7

Moiz Khan not out 30

Mushtaq Ahmed not out 6

Extras: (b-4, lb-12, nb-10) 26

Total (for seven wickets declared) 242

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-34; 3-132; 4-142; 5-188; 6-201; 7-221

Bowling: Mullyally 15 2 43 0

Lewis 16 3 52 1

Caddick 17 4 52 3

Cork 16 2 49 1

Thorpe 10 3 10 0

Atherton 7 1 20 1

Result: Match drawn.

First Test (Lord's): Pakistan won by 164 runs.

Third Test, The Oval, August 22-26.

Pakistan lead 1-0 in the three-match series.

Last nail in Azhar's coffin

NEW DELHI, Aug 13 (AFP): Mohammad Azharuddin ended his stormy marriage after he was replaced by young batting genius Sachin Tendulkar as India's cricket captain, the press reported Tuesday.

Azharuddin, 33, who has been under fire since India's defeat in the World Cup semi-finals in March, divorced his wife Naureen and ended speculation over his eight year long marriage, which had been on the rocks for the past one year.

The former skipper has been often accused in the media of "not being focussed" after his highly-publicised romance with former Miss India and film star Sangeeta Bijlani.

Naureen's relatives in the city of Hyderabad confirmed the divorce and said Azharuddin left for Bombay, where Bijlani stays, after ending his marriage under Islamic Shariah laws.

The divorce came four days after 23-year-old Tendulkar was named captain for the four nation Singer World Series starting in Colombo on August 24 and a five match rubber against arch-rivals Pakistan in Canada in September.

Naureen, who has two children, Abbas and Ali, with Azhar, had moved to her parents' house in the Banjara Hills.

The former Indian captain, who had strained marital relations with Naureen for the past two years had finally given the *talak* call in the presence of witnesses and left for Bombay to deposit before the committee which enquires into the Sidhu affair.

Jacquet comes to his senses

PARIS, Aug 13: Eric Cantona's international career was given new life today when French manager Aime Jacquet said the Manchester United star was part of his World Cup plans, reports AFP.

Cantona was controversially left out of the French squad for Euro '96 and his future chances of ever playing for France looked slight.

But Jacquet, who has never lost an international since he took over in 1993, said in the French sports newspaper L'Equipe that he would be a fool to ignore the talent of Cantona who last season steered Manchester United to the cup and league double.

He also left the door open for Newcastle United's David Ginola, who like Cantona was ignored during Euro '96.

"I am not an idiot or mad. I am there to create the best team possible," said Jacquet, who last week had his contract extended to the 1998 World Cup in France.

"I know them and how to use them," added Jacquet, who said the two players offered him a valuable alternative.

But he warned that he would not make any quick, dramatic changes to the side that reached the semifinals of the European Championships.

"Obviously there will be changes but nothing too quick," said Jacquet.

France begins their World Cup preparations against Mexico on August 31.

Jacquet came under severe criticism earlier this season for ignoring Cantona.

Cantona, who led Manchester United to a crushing 4-0 win over Newcastle in last weekend's Charity Shield match at Wembley, has been cold-shouldered by Jacquet since the player's infamous kung-fu attack on a Crystal Palace hooligan 18 months ago.

Women's World v'ball in Sept

TAIPEI, Aug 13: The Cuban women's volleyball team, gold medalists at the Atlanta Olympics, will take on bronze medalists Brazil September 20-22 in the semifinals of the Women's World Grand Prix in Taipei, the local promoter announced today, reports AFP.

South Korea and Japan will compete in the other semifinal of the 1.5 million US dollar event, a sports international spokesperson said.

The final will be held in Shanghai September 27-29.

Warne worries Aussies



SYDNEY, Aug 13: Star leg-spinner Shane Warne will decide at the weekend if an injured spinning finger has healed enough to allow him to join Australia's tour of Sri Lanka if it goes ahead as planned next week, reports AFP.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) was meantime expected to decide Friday whether the two-week tour should become another casualty of Sri Lanka's continuing civil war like Australia's World Cup fixtures there last February.

If it goes ahead, it will do so without captain Mark Taylor, who pulled out on Monday because of a back injury which requires early surgery.

Queensland wicketkeeper and current deputy Ian Healy is expected to be named skipper, with veteran batsman Steve Waugh as stand-in vice-captain.

Warne had surgery to the fourth finger on his right hand in late May and said everything was coming along well, but this weekend's training camp in Brisbane would be the ultimate test.

The original remaining squad of 12 players, plus six reserves, will assemble on Thursday for the three-day camp at the Gabba.

The Victorian captain has just overcome a nagging shoulder and Australia can ill-afford to risk their trump card with a five-Test series against the West Indies looking in November.

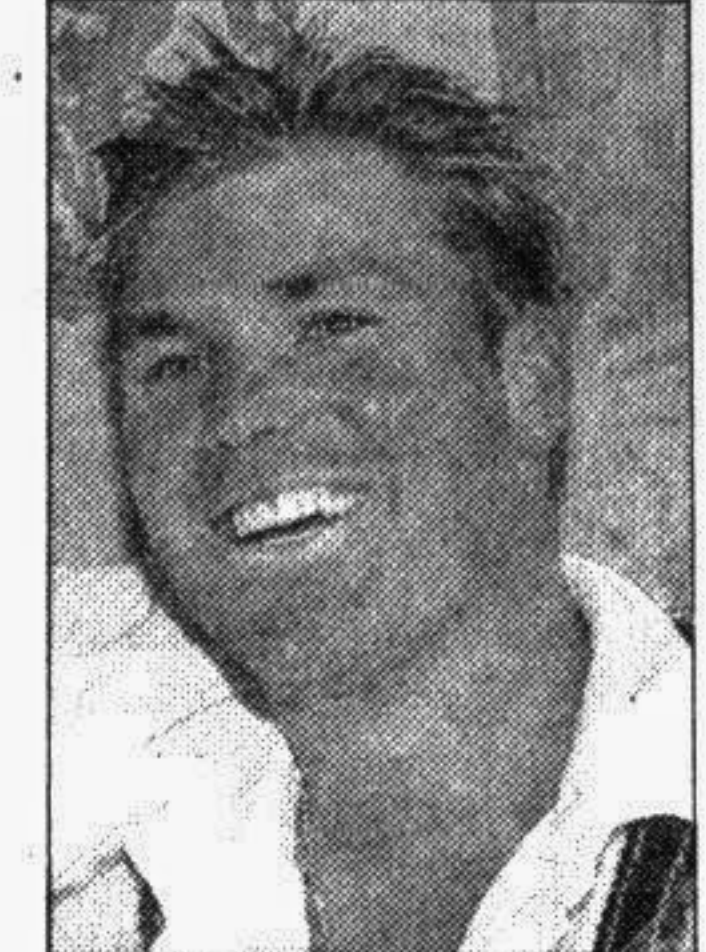
Warne said while he did not

want to miss any game, he also didn't want to risk further injury.

"I know I'm going to be right very soon and it's just a matter of whether it's next week, two weeks or next month," Warne said today.

"It has taken a while to heal but that's good sign because it's healing really strongly."

The doctor and the physios



SHANE WARNE

are really happy with the progress and so am I. I started bowling leggies on Sunday and felt pretty good."

"It is in my best interest and the best interest of Australian cricket that my condition be addressed as quickly as possible."

"In Brisbane I'll give it a really good workover and if it's no good it's no good. But if I rip 'em out, fine."

The price of success



ZURICH, Aug 13: Olympic success has taken its toll on the bodies and the bank balances of champions Michael Johnson and Nouredine Morceli, two of the biggest names in Athletics, reports Reuters.

American 200 and 400 champion Johnson and Algerian Morceli, the winner of the blue ribbon 1,500 metres in Atlanta, have been forced to pull out of the world's richest meeting in Zurich on Wednesday because of injuries picked up at the Olympics.

Organisers said Johnson would miss the "Weltklasse" event because of an injury on his knee which he hurt during his historic double on Atlanta's hard track.

Morceli will also be absent, because he is still struggling with a problem with his ankle which was spiked during his Olympic triumph.

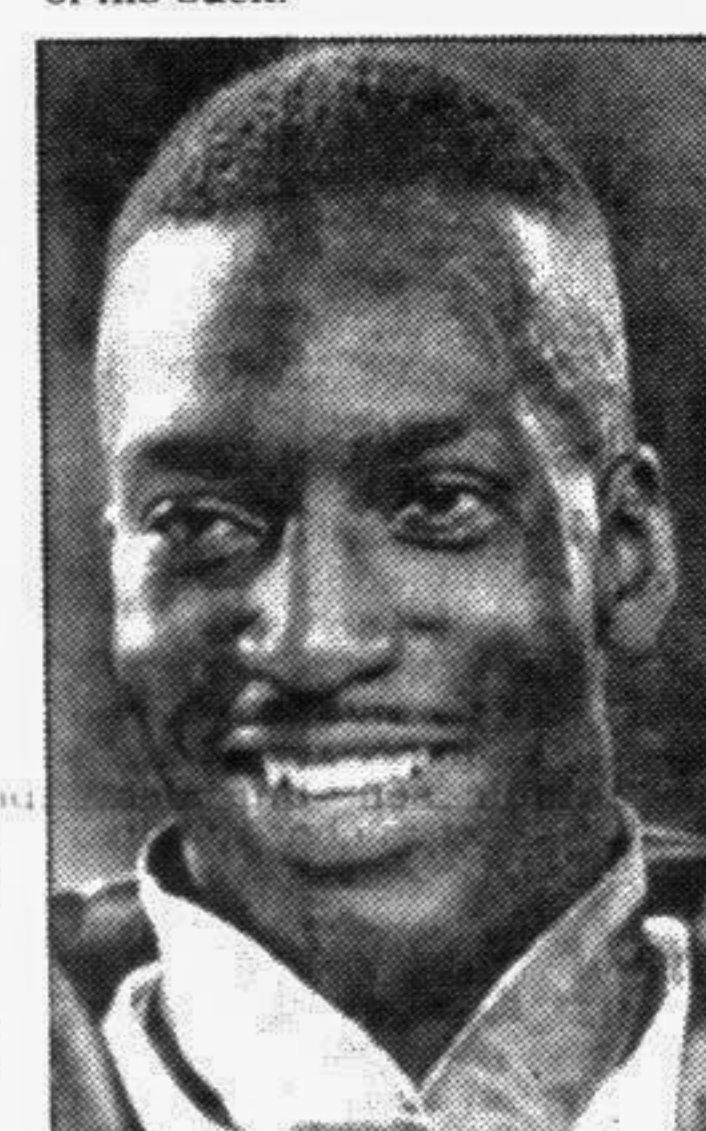
The Duo will miss out on the sport's biggest payday in the Swiss financial city where world records are rewarded with kilos of gold and an athlete such as Johnson can pocket at least 70,000 dollars just for turning up.

Last year the American was offered nearly 3,000 dollars a second to break the 400 metres world record.

Czech Olympic javelin champion Jan Zelezny is also not competing because his throwing arm is hurting after a trial for the Atlanta Braves baseball team last week.

There are also questions

over American Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson, who is suffering with a problematic wisdom tooth, and Burundi's 5,000 metres champion Venuste Niyongabo who has a problem at the base of his back.



MICHAEL JOHNSON

Veteran Jamaican sprinter Merlene Ottey also has a back problem but should be able to run the 100 metres. But American triple jumper Mike Conley and Algeria's female middle-distance runner Hassiba Boulmerka have only 50 per cent chances of competing.

The men's 100 metres should provide one of the highlights of an evening which

The ACB has said it's policy for competing in the two-week, four-nation Sri Lanka limited overs tournament requires a discernible improvement in the 13-year civil war.

Australia forfeited their World Cup opener in Colombo on February 17 after the January 31 suicide bombing that killed 91 people and injured 1400 in the capital's main financial district.

Sri Lanka later defeated Mark Taylor's men in the cup final in Lahore on March 17. Only two weeks ago another 70 people died in a commuter train bombing on the outskirts of Colombo, while large scale attacks continue in the north where Tamil Tiger rebels want to establish a separate homeland.

The foreign affairs and trade department has downgraded its warnings on travel to Sri Lanka since the World Cup but said the island remained a high risk destination with hazards on a similar level to Cambodia.

Yet the ACB looks set to sanction Australia's participation in the Singer Cup limited overs tournament.

"We do look forward to going to Sri Lanka and Friday we hope to make a positive decision," ACB chief executive Graham Hallish said here today.

"We've had several talks and meetings with Sri Lankan officials since February and it's fair to say they've gone out of their way to adopt a positive approach towards Australia."

"We'll take all that into account but first and foremost in our minds is the safety of our players."

over American Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson, who is suffering with a problematic wisdom tooth, and Burundi's 5,000 metres champion Venuste Niyongabo who has a problem at the base of his back.

Canada's Olympic sprint champion Donovan Bailey will take on Atlanta bronze medalist Ato Boldon and Britain's former champion Linford Christie over 100 metres. Namibia's silver medalist Frankie Fredericks is due to run the 200 metres.

Bailey said last week that he was keen to take on Johnson in a lucrative showdown over 150 metres during the Grand Prix circuit next month which will take the Canadian to Zurich, Cologne, Brussels and Berlin.

But Bailey said the race, which has yet to be finalised in view of Johnson's injury, would not affect his standing as the world's fastest man or Johnson's title as the most versatile sprinter in history.

"At 150 we'd both be running a distance that would not affect anything. I'm looking forward to it," he said.

Zurich organisers refused to say whether they had billed any record-breaking attempts on Wednesday's programme despite the array of leading athletes on view.

The past, however, has shown that athletes are very much motivated to produce top performances because of the huge money on offer. If the Zurich weather is good, anything can happen in what is always a packed Letzigrund Arena.

Money causes disparity



LONDON, Aug 13: Rampant transfer fees plunged English football clubs into the red in the 1994-95 season and heightened a rift between top clubs and aspiring teams from lower divisions, a study showed on Monday, reports AFP.

Despite a 21 per cent surge in income, English clubs made pre-tax losses of 14.1 million pounds (21 million dollars) over the season, the 1996 Deloitte and Touche annual review of football finance found.

"The losses come from a net 31 million pounds of transfer fees payable and 10 million pounds of finance costs on top of this," said Gerry Boon, head of the research team.

Premier league clubs en-

Japan AFC's choice

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 13: Japan's football team, who put on a gritty performance at the Atlanta Olympics, were today July by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), reports AFP.

Japan beat Brazil in their opening match, lost to Nigeria, then beat Hungary, but missed the quarterfinals on goal differential.

"Japan's Olympic squad... defied all the odds to overcome the nation of world champions, Brazil, and narrowly miss out on qualification for the competition's quarterfinals," the AFC said in a statement released here.

South Korea's Yoon Jong Hwan, who captained his side during the Olympics, won the player of the month award.

Yoon scored a lone goal to lead his team to victory over 1992 bronze medalists Ghana in South Korea's opening match.

The South Koreans drew with Mexico in their second match, but their hopes of reaching the final eight were dashed after they lost to Italy on a defensive error.

Ma Yuanan, who coached the Chinese women's squad to a silver medal at the Olympics, clinched the coach of the month award. The United States edged China 2-1 to take the gold.

Thailand's Sanor Longswan scored the goal of the month in Bangkok. His strike in a match against Burma helped his side qualify for the Asian Cup finals to be held in the United Arab Emirates in December.

joyed 69 per cent of a total income of 468 million pounds in the 1994-95 season.

"To put it into perspective, Manchester United and Newcastle United together have a greater turnover than the whole of Division 1," Boon said.

As the top clubs continue to attract more fans and bumper revenues from television rights, the accountant predicted that divisions between the clubs would widen further.

"With the average Premier league club now having a turnover almost four times that of the average Division one club, it is difficult to see how even the larger football league clubs are going to bridge the gap with the Premier league and sustain it," Boon said.

"It is difficult to see how some clubs will survive in the long-term."

Lower clubs saw their income from transfer fees dip by 27 per cent to 9.5 million pounds during the season.

"The huge pressures on Premier league clubs to provide star names have rustled in a move away from recruiting 'home grown' talent from lower division. Instead, the clubs are looking overseas for international players or recruiting big names from Premier league rivals," as shown by Alan Shearer's recent world record-breaking 15 million pound move," Boon said.

During the 1994-95 season, Shearer's new club, Newcastle United made the second-biggest loss of any English football club, after "significant transfer expenditure" plunged the club into losses of 8.2 million pounds.

This contrasted with an average operating profit of 2.24 million pounds in the Premier league. Manchester United, which last season won the league title and the FA Cup double for a historic third time, was the country's most profitable club in 1994/95, when it earned pre-tax profits of 20 million pounds.



AC Milan's George Weah fires the ball past a sliding Alain Roche of Paris St Germain during the three-team Opel Masters' tournament in Berlin on August 12. PSG won 2-1. The third team is Bayern Munich.

— AFP/UNB photo

Graf to play in Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia, Aug 13: Steffi Graf will represent Germany in this year's Hopman Cup international mixed teams event, tournament director Paul McNamee said Tuesday, reports Reuters.

It will be the fourth time that Graf, the world's top-ranked women player, has competed in the event, and the first time in three years.

Graf's partner is not yet known. McNamee said it is unlikely Boris Becker or Michael Stich, whom she partnered to win the fifth Hopman Cup, will be available because of other commitments.

The Hopman Cup will be played from Dec 29 to Jan 4 at the Burswood Dome in Perth. The event was officially sanctioned by the International Tennis Federation this year.

In her last appearance in 1993, Graf partnered Michael Stich in a German victory.