

Sport

UEFA expands champs' League format

ANTALYA, Turkey, Oct 4: The European Champions' League will increase from 16 to 24 teams from the 1997-98 season.

European soccer's governing body, meeting in this Mediterranean resort, said the competition would be played in six groups of four teams, with the six group winners and the two best runners-up progressing to a knock-out stage.

At present teams play in four groups of four with two sides from each group qualifying for the quarterfinals.

UEFA, who dumped champions from smaller nations out of the European Cup two years ago, said the decision to change the format meant all domestic champions would have a chance to qualify for the Champions' League.

In addition Europe's top-eight ranked countries will be able to enter a second team for the qualifying phase.

The current top nations who stand to benefit by having a second team in the competition are Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, England, France, Germany, Portugal and Belgium, although this list could vary slightly by the start of the 1997-98 season.

A UEFA working group first proposed the idea of a 24-team competition in May.

The expanded format means a flurry of matches over the European summer with a preliminary round involving champions from 32 countries to be played in July.

The 16 winners then play a qualifying round in August with eight of the remaining national champions plus eight additional high-placed teams.

The winning 16 teams will then join the eight remaining champions for the group stages. The Champions' League began with eight clubs in the 1992-93 season.

Roux rallies past Woodruff LYON, France, Oct 4: Frenchman Lionel Roux rallied to beat Chris Woodruff of the United States 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 to move into the quarterfinals of the 750,000 dollars Lyon Grand Prix Thursday, reports AP.

Woodruff, who beat top-seeded Thomas Muster the night before, needed just 29 minutes to take the first set against Roux. Then both held service forcing a second set tiebreaker.

Roux took the first two points and held on from there to a 7-5 victory and forced a third set.

Roux finally succeeded to break Woodruff in the seventh game of the third set to take a 4-3 lead. He served for the match at 5-4 but Woodruff held off a match point to even things at 5-5.

Woodruff got into trouble with a double fault and dropped the 11th game to give Roux another chance to go ahead and serve again for the victory at 6-5.

Roux held his serve this time to end the 2-hour, 39-minute match well after midnight.

In all Roux held off 18 break points in the match.

In other second round matches Tim Henman of Britain ousted Jan Siemerink of Netherlands, 7 (4-7), 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-5), needing more than 2 1/2 hours; Arnaud Boetsch of France moved past Andrei Chesnokov when the Russian had to retire in the second set of their match with a leg injury and Slovak Karol Kucera Slovakia ousted Moroccan Younes El Ayyouchi 7-5, 6-2.

Scifo sidelined MONACO, Oct 4: Monaco's Belgian midfielder Enzo Scifo will be out of action for a week because of a fractured toe, the French First Division club said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Scifo, Belgium's captain, was injured during Monaco's 2-0 defeat away to champions Auxerre on Wednesday night and will miss his country's World Cup qualifier against San Marino next Wednesday.

Murdoch wins legal battle SYDNEY, Oct 4: Media baron Rupert Murdoch on Friday won legal approval to launch his rebel Super League in Australia after a court ruled that attempts to stop it by the sport's governing body violated anti-monopoly laws, reports Reuters.

The federal court of Australia upheld Murdoch's appeal against an earlier court ruling that banned his rugby league competition from kicking off in Australia before the year 2000.

The ruling leaves Murdoch free to launch his rebel competition next year.

Murdoch has invested 270 million Australian dollars, 213 million US dollars in the rebel rugby league competition, winning the loyalty of eight existing Australian clubs and more than 200 players.

He has also signed up clubs in Britain and New Zealand for a similar rebel competition.

The court said it found the loyalty agreements linking clubs with the Australian Rugby League, (ARL), the sport's national body contravened sections of Australia's anti-monopoly trade practices act.

Since the commitments and loyalty agreements are void, the trial judge has decided that the trial judge's orders, in so far as they were based on the assumption that the agreements are enforceable, "do not stand," the court said in its judgment.

Runfest sees Pakistan in final

World champs down & out



NAIROBI, Oct 4: Pakistan roared into the final of the four-nation century tournament here on Friday, beating world champions Sri Lanka by 82 runs thanks to 18-year-old Shahid Afridi, who hit 100 off only 37 balls — the fastest century compiled in a one-day international, reports AFP.

Pakistan scored 371 for one

for 102. Afridi also equalled Jayasuriya's feat of 11 sixers in an innings.

Manager Nusrat Aziz said he had wanted a spin bowler, and was unaware that Afridi was also a batsman.

Sri Lanka's leading batsman Aravinda de Silva led a spirited run chase by the one-day kings. However, his and Sri Lanka's hopes ended when he was stumped by Moin Khan on 122.

Pakistan's ace paceman

Table with 4 columns: O, M, R, W. Lists bowling statistics for various players including Saqlain, Nazir, and De Silva.

Saqlain not out 13 Nazir not out 6 Extras: (lb-7, nb-2, w-17) 26 Total: (for 9 wickets, 50 overs) 371

Fall of wickets: 1-60; 2-186; 3-207; 4-299; 5-314; 6-322; 7-335; 8-336; 9-364.

Bowling O M R W Saqlain 6 0 47 1

Vaas 7 0 44 0

Dharmasena 7 0 48 1

Jayasuriya 10 0 94 3

Muralitharan 10 0 73 2

De Silva 10 0 58 1

Extras: (lb-10, w-12, nb-1) 23

Total: (all out in 49.5 overs) 289

Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-26; 3-27; 4-27; 5-151; 6-160; 7-270; 8-279; 9-279; 10-289.

Bowling O M R W Waqar 8.5 0 52 5

A Mahmood 5 2 39 0

S Nazir 2 0 32 0

Saqlain 10 2 33 4

Malik 10 0 58 0

S Afridi 10 0 43 1

Anwar 1 0 8 0

Ijaz 3 0 14 0

Result: Pakistan won by 82 runs

Man-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi



SAQEEED ANWAR ... 115

In their 50 overs and bowled Sri Lanka out for 289 in 49.5 overs. They will face South Africa in the final on Sunday.

All three countries are on four points — Kenya lost all their matches — but Sri Lanka lost out because of a lower run-rate.

Afridi's century surpassed that of Sri Lanka's dynamic opener Sanath Jayasuriya, who hit 100 off 48 balls in a match against Pakistan in Singapore last April. Not surprisingly Afridi was named man-of-the-match.

Jayasuriya, still holds the record for the fastest 50 — off 17 balls. Afridi missed that mark by one ball.

Afridi, playing in only his second international since making his debut against Kenya on Tuesday, hit 11 sixes and six fours — a display that one spectator said "looked more like baseball than cricket" — before being caught by Muthiah Muralitharan off Saqeeda de Silva.

Muralitharan off Saqeeda de Silva



A DE SILVA ... 122

Waqar Younis wrapped it all up by bowling Chaminda Vaas — his fifth wicket — to seal a remarkable and unlikely victory for his team.

Pakistan were missing several regular players including skipper Wasim Akram, who returned to Lahore earlier in the week to be with his sick father.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Kenya on Friday:

PAKISTAN

Anwar c Mahanama b Muralitharan 115

Elahi c Muralitharan b Dharmasena 23

S Afridi c Muralitharan b Saqlain 102

Ramiz c Gurusinha b Muralitharan 7

Malik c Ranatunga b De Silva 43

Ijaz st Kaluwatharana b Jayasuriya 6

Moin c Dharmasena b Jayasuriya 18

Waqar c Dharmasena b Jayasuriya 12

Jayasuriya 12

A Mahmood run out 0



JAYASURIYA ... dethroned

SRI LANKA Jayasuriya c Nazir b Waqar 19 Kaluwatharana c Moin b Waqar 19 Gurusinha b Waqar 1

De Silva st Moin b Saqlain 122

Mahanama lbw Waqar 0

Ranatunga c Moin b S Afridi 52

Tillekeratne b Saqlain 3

Dharmasena c Anwar b Saqlain 51

Vaas b Waqar 16

Muralitharan st Moin b Saqlain 0

Sanjewa not out 0

Extras: (lb-10, w-12, nb-1) 23

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Heineken Open Chang sails into semis

SINGAPORE, Oct 4: World number two Michael Chang routed Javier Frana of Argentina 6-4, 6-1 to reach the semifinals of the men's Heineken Open on Friday, reports agencies.

Frana had battled back from 5-2 down in the first set and was within two points of snatching the set when he committed two consecutive errors to allow Chang to escape.

Chang did not make any mistakes in the second set and broke Frana twice to wrap up the quarterfinal match.

"You never want to be up 5-2 and end up losing the set," Chang told reporters. "It was very crucial for me to win the last game in the first set."

Sweden's Thomas Johansson reached the semifinal at the expense of second seed and Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek after the Dutchman failed to start the first set and retired with a knee injury.

They split the first two sets, Krajicek winning the opener 7-5 and the losing the second, 7-3 in a tiebreak.

In the other quarterfinals, unseeded Greg Rusedski of Britain fired 16 aces past Russian Andrei Olhovskiy to win 7-6, 6-2 and setup a semifinal match with Chang on Saturday.

In a battle of qualifiers, American Jonathan Stark won two tight tiebreakers to emerge a 7-6, 7-6 victory over Germany's Martin Sinner. He will meet Johansson in their semifinal.

Jansher to come back

LONDON, Oct 4: Pakistan world number one Jansher Khan has agreed to return to the British Super League less than 20 months after being accused of not trying in a match, a spokesman for the Squash League said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Jansher, who will play for Surbiton in the 1996-97 campaign, missed the whole of last season while a disciplinary charge against him was settled.

The Pakistani, who is also world Champion, was accused of not trying when losing to Scotland's Peter Nicol in March 1995. It was one of only two defeats suffered by Jansher in the past three years.

Playing for the Welsh Wizards, Jansher lost his match with current world number four Nicol, then playing for Cannon, 10-8, 9-0, 9-0, and it was the last two sets which sparked the lengthy dispute.

It was finally settled through arbitration after Jansher's argument of a dead rubber was accepted.

League director Andrew Shelley said: "It is all behind us. As long as Surbiton can find the funds to field him, he tells me he will be blowing his opponents away."

Futch parts company with Bowe

NEW YORK, Oct 4: Eddie Futch will no longer train Riddick Bowe.

"I'm withdrawing my services from Riddick Bowe because of irreconcilable differences," the 65-year-old Futch told The Associated Press on Thursday night by telephone from his home in Las Vegas. "It's been in the works for a long time."

Futch said he had not talked to the former undisputed heavyweight champion, but had informed manager Rock Newman.

"I told him I can't deal with it anymore," Futch said. "He told me, 'I could see it coming.'"

He will continue to train other fighters.

Futch said he was embarrassed by Bowe's performance against Andrew Golota in a July 11 fight at Madison Square Garden which Bowe won in the seventh round when Golota was disqualified for low blows.

Bowe was behind and was being battered when the match was stopped. A melee then broke out that led to several arrests.

"I was shocked by the way he looked when he walked to the ring," Futch said. "He acted like all he had to do was waltz the guy and it would be over."

It was not known who Bowe's trainer would be for his rematch against Golota on Dec 14 at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

"He lost his focus and everything became more important than being the best fighter around," Futch said of Bowe.

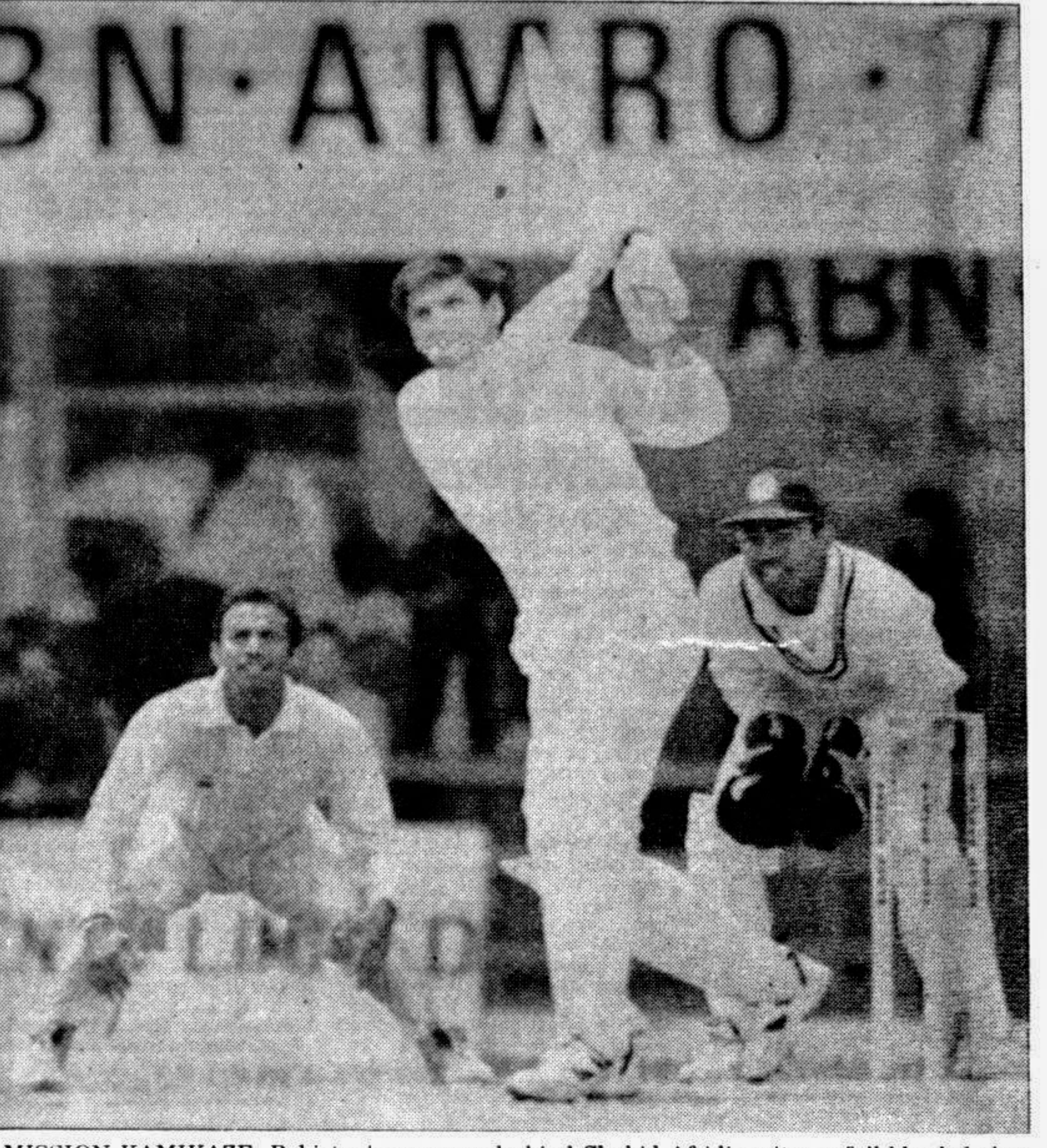
Bowe was one of six heavyweight champions Futch has worked with and the only one he developed from the start.

"When I started with Bowe (in 1988) I told him I don't have any time to waste and I wasn't going to let him or anybody waste my time," Futch said. "He said he would do anything I wanted him to do, which he did up until he won the title. Then a lot of other voices became prominent."

Bowe won the undisputed championship on points over Evander Holyfield on Nov 11, 1992 and defended it by stopping Michael Dokes in the first round and knocking out Jesse Ferguson in the second round before losing a rematch with Holyfield Nov 4, 1993.

"He might have become the best heavyweight ever," Futch said. "He's big and strong, had a good left hand and could fight inside, but he was never the same after the Ferguson fight."

Futch has trained 19 world champions. The other heavyweight champion he's worked with were Joe Frazier, Ken Norton, Larry Holmes, Michael Spinks and Trevor Berbick.



MISSION KAMIKAZE: Pakistan's new wonderkind Shahid Afridi smites a full-blooded shot for a huge six while Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwatharana and Hasan Tillekeratne look on during their match of the four-nation cricket tournament in Nairobi yesterday. The 18-year-old Pakistani smashed the fastest one-day hundred off 37 balls.

— AFP/UNB photo

Aussies open tour today



BOMBAY, Oct 4: Only one member of Mark Taylor's squad has played a Test in India but the Australian captain is optimistic of success in the major game of their six-week tour which opens this weekend, reports Reuters.

Australia's schedule includes a one-off Test against India and a triangular limited-overs series also involving the host country and South Africa.

The Australians leave for the northern town of Patiala today for a three-day opening tour match against the Cricket Board President's XI starting on Saturday.

Taylor said he would have liked two three-day games before the solitary Test starting in New Delhi on October 10.

"Perhaps, these days, it is not possible to spend so much time touring, he said. We came early to put an edge into our form."

"Taylor is without leg-spinner Shane Warne and pacer-in-chief Craig McDermott, though his absence would not be so keenly felt" as in Glenn McGrath who has a prominent strike bowler, who has done so well in the last year, Damien Fleming, too, is coming up well."

Taylor said Warne had not yet recovered from minor surgery on a finger injury.

He said the tour of India would be good preparation ahead of the challenge his side faced from the West Indies at home later in the 1996-97 season.

"(India's captain) Sachin (Tendulkar) is a very affable fellow and gets along very well with our guys. But when he is on the field, he is a different chap altogether. He is a highly competent cricketer and you understand he is also captaining the side well," Taylor said.

"I think we will have a good, competitive Test match, played in the right spirit."

Taylor, who leads a 14-man party, said: "We have players who have played more than 50 Tests and yet there is only one amongst us, Steve Waugh, who has played in a Test match in India before. It means when we play at Delhi next week, 10 of us will be making our first Test appearance in India."

Though optimistic about his side's prospects, Taylor said: "We are not taking things easy as the Indians today are a very strong batting side and on their home wickets their bowlers, too, will be a different proposition."

The Australians, who expect spin to play an important role in the Delhi Test, will get an early look at India's slow bowling talent.

The Board President's team includes four spinners who are in the reckoning to join Indian vice-captain Anil Kumble in the Test squad — leg-spinners Narendra Hirwani and Sairaj Kapoor, off-spinner Ashish Khatu and left-armers Sunil Joshi.

Of the four, only Bahutule has yet to play at the international level.

The Australian bowlers are also promised a good work out, as skipper Sanjay Manjrekar, Ajay Jadeja, Vikram Rathore and Vinod Kamble fight to consolidate their places ahead of the Test selection on Sunday.

Twelve of the 14 Australian tourists took part in the World Cup held in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka earlier this year, but only veteran Steve Waugh has played a Test in India before.

SQUADS

AUSTRALIA (from): Mark Taylor (capt), Mark Waugh, Michael Slater, Ricky Ponting,

Steve Waugh, Michael Bevan, Stuart Law, Ian Healy, Damien Fleming, Glenn McGrath, Paul Reifel, Brad Hogg, Jason Gillespie, Peter McIntyre.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S (from): Sanjay Manjrekar (capt), Vikram Rathore, Sri Ramesh, Ajay Jadeja, Vinod Kamble, VVS Laxman, Pankaj Dharmani, Shed Saba Karim, Narendra Hirwani, Ashish Kapoor, Sunil Joshi, Sairaj Bahutule, D Ganesh, David Johnson.

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Brits make a point

LONDON, Oct 4: English Commonwealth Games officials said on Thursday that they saw no reason why the 1998 Games in Malaysia could not be moved to fit in with the World Cup athletics due to take place in South Africa just days before, reports Reuters.

"I can't see any problem with moving either event by a week or so one way or the other at this stage," Norman Sarsfield, chairman of the Commonwealth Games Council for England (CGCE), told a news conference.

"I firmly believe the (International Amateur Athletic Federation) IAAF and Malaysia will find a solution to this. It's far too important a problem for them not to."

The problem came to light at the weekend when IAAF president Primo Nebiolo revealed the World Cup in Johannesburg would be staged from September 11-13, 1998.

The Commonwealth Games have long since been pencilled in for a September 14 start, and the fear is that athletes would skip Malaysia in favour of the World Cup, especially as the IAAF has promised prize money at all its events from next year.

The IAAF did not consult the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) before announcing its date, and Nebiolo said the World Cup team event must take priority.

"The Commonwealth Games cannot occupy any window. This is the situation," Nebiolo said at the weekend. "Who is leading athletics around the world?"

The IAAF's stance raises the possibility of athletes enduring a long-haul flight from South Africa across six time zones to compete in the days following for no extra financial gain.

But English Commonwealth officials were stressing their flexibility on Wednesday, denying there was a conflict of interests between the CGF and the IAAF.

"When I first heard about the World Cup dates I was surprised," CGCE president Sir Christopher Chataway said. "But it looks like a cock-up rather than a conspiracy."

"I was surprised by the tone (of Nebiolo's comments) but I don't think there's anything to be gained by reacting."

He said he did not think English athletes would be lured away from Kuala Lumpur by the promise of lucrative World Cup prizes in Johannesburg.

Sir Christopher, a former Commonwealth medal winner, said South Africa, with half an eye on its bid for the 2004 Olympics, would be willing to compromise with the CGF over dates for the two events.

"I'm quite sure Cape Town would not want to alienate the Commonwealth just at the time when it is bidding for the Olympics," he said.

Tubbs in trouble

NORWOOD, Ohio, Oct 4: Former WBA heavyweight champion Tony Tubbs has been charged with possession of crack cocaine, reports AP.

Police in the Cincinnati suburb of Norwood said officers stopped a car Tubbs was in early Thursday and found a rock of crack on the floor near one of his feet.

The charge is a fifth-degree felony punishable by up to a year in prison and a 2,500 dollars fine, police said.

At Tubbs' initial appearance in Hamilton County Municipal Court on Thursday, Judge Dennis Helmick agreed with Tubbs' attorney that there was little evidence to show the crack belonged to the boxer. Helmick released Tubbs after he promised to return for other court hearings.

