

Column One SPORTS TALK



Cammie Smith

(Former West Indian Test opener)

In our times we played on excellent pitches. But, now the groundstaff are not all that dedicated in their work. Maybe, they have their own problems. I feel first class players should play their games on those pitches that are similar to Test wickets. That's the only way to gauge the material of the players.

About the deterioration of Caribbean cricket.

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT it is no big deal if you are running forward. Have you ever tried running backwards?

Anthony "Scott" Weiland ran the Detroit Marathon backwards in 4 hours 7 minutes on October 3, 1982.

Donald Davis (b. 1960) ran one mile backwards in 6 minutes 7.1 sec. at the University of Hawaii on February 21, 1983. Ferdie Adobor ran 100 yards backwards in 12.8 sec. at Amherst, Mass. on July 28, 1983. That's 100 metres in 14 sec.

Arvind Pandya, an Indian, ran backwards from John O-Groats to Lands End, 880 miles in 29 days, October 2-31, 1985.

So, what are you waiting for, start running backwards.

WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN WIN TK, 2000/- PRIZE BOND EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-55

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes: 8 pm October 25, 1996

- 1 In Test cricket, how many centuries did former West Indian opener Gordon Greenidge score? 18 19 17

Name: Class: School Address: Phone: (if any):

Spanish booters go on strike?

MADRID, Oct 22: Spanish players who want their traditional Christmas break are threatening to go on strike on December 29th, reports Reuter.

In the past six months the clubs have been unable to agree on anything, except to form a common front against the players," said Gerardo Gonzalez, president of the Association of Spanish Footballers.

Gonzalez has proposed to move the league programme scheduled for December 29th to January 22nd, creating a two-week break lasting from December 22nd to January 5th.

In recent years the Spanish League—which starts at the beginning of September and finishes at the end of June—has closed down completely from before Christmas until after New Year.

But a calendar already bloated by an expanded European club calendar and World Cup qualifying games has been stretched further to accommodate the 22-team First Division that arose from a legal bungle in the summer of 1995.

Automatic relegation of four sides will mean that the First Division will be scaled back to 20 teams at the end of this season.

Damal Memorial tourney from Oct 27

BCCB's CCDM sans MSC, AKK

Sports Reporter



The Damal Memorial cricket tournament, the season's curtain raiser, will begin in the capital from October 27.

This was decided in the first meeting of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM), the recently-appointed body to run Dhaka cricket, at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office last night.

Meanwhile, leading clubs have expressed surprise over the reported formation of CCDM. A club official requesting anonymity said yesterday that no such formal announcement has reached their clubs. The press is also in the dark regarding the formal announcement.

As in previous years, twelve Premier and ten First Division outfits, split into six groups will feature in the round robin first phase from where six top finishers will qualify for the final round.

The first round will be played at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and at the remote City Club ground in Mirpur.

Although the fixture of the newly-christened Damal Memorial tourney which was earlier called Damal Summer tournament is yet to be finalised, it is expected that neither the defending champions Mohammedans nor their arch

rivals Abahani Krira Chakra, will feature in the inaugural match to be held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

It was also learnt that the City Club ground where Mohammedans usually feature in the first round matches, will be fit for play from November 1.

The six-team final round, three each in two groups, will be held at the Dhaka Stadium.

However, the novelty this year is that BCCB, the governing body of local cricket, has named a strong 56-member committee to run the Dhaka cricket instead of them directly involving with the domestic meets.

Tanvir Haider, general secretary of the CCDM, however, said that, although the BCCB has appointed them to run the show things will remain as before, including the by-laws.

Mahmud al Farid, the Additional IG of Police, has been named the chairman of the committee. But, he skipped the first meeting yesterday. In his absence, Alul Islam, one of the three vice-presidents of the committee, presided over the meet attended by 38 members.

Surprisingly, Mohammedans and Abahani did not send their representatives to the first meeting. I did not see any representative from both Abahani and Mohammedans in the meeting," said Tanvir Haider who is also the addi-

tional joint secretary of Mohammedans.

It may be recalled that Mohammedans barred three of their officials — Aminul Huq, Tanvir Haider and Khaled Hassan — who were moved, in the BCCB's new committee a few months back. The three have been conspicuous by their absence from any BCCB meet thereafter.

An MSC official last night expressed utter dismay at Tanvir Haider's role of double standards. It was Tanvir who initiated the boycott, peppered by a strongly-worded press release from the ex-cricketer, and it now seems he was the first of the three to smoke BCCB's peace pipe.

Meanwhile, the CCDM have finalised the grouping of the first phase.

They are: Group A — Mohammedan Sporting Club, Victoria SC and Gopibagh Friends.

Group B — Abahani Krira Chakra, Gulshan Youth and Bangladesh Boys.

Group C — Kalabagan Krira Chakra, Surjo Tarun, City Club and Dhaka Wanderers.

Group D — Brothers Union, Agrani Bank, Sadharan Biman and Dhanmondi Club.

Group E — GMCC, Lalmita, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Azad Sporting Club.

Group F — Bangladesh Biman, Wari Club, Ajax SC and Uttara Friends Club.

Report on Guatemala tragedy soon

GUATEMALA CITY, Oct 22: A presidential commission studying last week's soccer stadium tragedy in which 83 people were suffocated and crushed to death will make a report later this week, government officials said on Monday, reports Reuter.

We want to hear all the parties and we believe that we'll be able to turn in our report on Thursday, Oscar Berger, Guatemala City mayor and a member of the commission, told reporters.

President Alvaro Arzu charged the commission with finding out what caused the disaster and who was responsible.

Berger said the commission spent Monday meeting with soccer authorities who planned and managed the World Cup qualifying game between Guatemala and Costa Rica on Wednesday night to the Mateo Flores Stadium.

Half an hour before kick-off, an unknown event in the overcrowded, standing room-only terraces at one end of the stadium triggered a human avalanche.

Hundreds of people tumbled on top of each other, resulting in the worst stadium disaster in World Cup history.

The government has said a fight in the stands set off the tragic crush, but the local media have pointed fingers at the stadium's inadequate security and rampant ticket forgery that led to overcrowding in the 74,000-capacity stadium.

Wembley BAF's choice

LONDON, Oct 22: The British Athletic Federation (BAF) said on Monday it wanted to see Britain's proposed new national stadium built at Wembley rather than Manchester, reports Reuter.

It is our ambition to stage major world and European events and our international colleagues tell us London—and in particular Wembley with its rich sporting history—would have an outstanding chance in any bidding process," BAF executive chairman Peter Radford said.

He said a revamped all-purpose stadium at Wembley, the venue for England soccer internationals, would enhance the BAF's planned bid for the 2001 World Athletics Championships as well as any future Olympic bid for London.

It would be appropriate for the major Olympic sport to rekindle interest in an Olympic Games in London in the opening decade of the next millennium," said Radford.

A final decision on the site of the proposed stadium is expected before the end of the year, with London and Manchester as the only two options.

Manchester, which saw its bids for the 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games fail, says Britain's sporting facilities should be redistributed away from the capital.

London claims it is the only city in Britain capable of staging an event as big as the Olympics.

Albert not so lucky

LONDON, Oct 22: Manchester United's French skipper Eric Cantona was "lucky not to have been sent off" during his team's 5-0 defeat at Newcastle United, Newcastle's Belgian defender Philippe Albert said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Albert, who scored a superb goal to complete the rout, said on Monday he told Cantona: "You know you should have been sent off."

A fierce argument just after half-time at St James' Park was followed by Cantona being booked for pushing Albert out of the way, as he was when the pair clashed during August's Charity Shield match at Wembley.

Albert later led protests after Cantona's late tackle floored Peter Beardsley, saying, "If he is honest he will agree that he was really lucky to stay on the field."

He seemed to be upset with all the things going on around him, especially in the second half.

"I had the same sort of feelings when we were being beaten 4-0 by Manchester United at Wembley. The difference was that we didn't start trying to kick people."

"We worked very hard, because if you don't win the 50-50 balls you don't have a chance."

Cantona has not been dismissed since returning to the game a year ago after his eight-month ban imposed following the infamous occasion in January last year when he was sent off playing against Crystal Palace—and then attacked an abusive fan on the way to the dressing room.

Swimmer banned

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Oct 22: Mexico's Perla Ramirez has become the first synchro swimmer to be suspended for doping, reports AP.

She was positively tested at the French Open championship in March for a stimulant called chloretaldone which she says she took to help her with period problems.



Saifuddin Lovelu (R), who handed a stunning defeat to his more illustrious opponent IM Neeroje Kumar Mishra of India, pondering next move during a 10th round match of the 13th Beximco QM Hossain International Masters chess tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Scenario unchanged

Sports Reporter

The situation at the top of the Beximco 13th QM Hossain International Masters chess championship remained unchanged when International Master (IM) Ziaur Rahman scored his eighth win to maintain his solo lead on completion of the tenth round at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Zia, who is cruising comfortably in his bid to claim the prestigious title for the second time, his maiden triumph was in 1992, defeated young Enamul Hossain Razib on Tuesday to consolidate his position collecting highest eight and a half points, two points clear from his nearest rivals in the crowded second slot.

The national champion, who is in fine fettle, will play against his Indian counterpart IM Vishal Shareen today. A win for Zia may well and truly decide the outcome of the 13-round Swiss League meet in his favour.

Trailing the table-leader are

four IMs including his arch-rival Rezaul-bin Sattar, who is sharing the second slot with Pakistani IM Mahmood Lodhi, Indian IMs Verugese Koshy and Niroje Kumar Mishra—all having collected six and a half points each.

In this round Reefat defeated compatriot Khandaker Kayes Hasan Koshy, who lost his way conceding successive defeats, returned to form at the cost of IM Vishal Shareen, one of the

four Indians in the fray. Two times champion Lodhi drew with FIDE Master Jamilur Rahman whose Old Indian Defence proved to be a water-tight system for the jovial Pathan to penetrate.

On the other hand, IM Mishra suffered a stunning defeat at the hands of an also-ran, Saifuddin Lovelu to fall from grace.

Besides, the tenth round which ushered in mixed fortune for the Indians, saw IM Sudhakar Babu being held to a draw by Enamul Hossain Razib, the youngest player in the meet. With this draw, both Sudhakar and national sub-junior champion Rajib occupied the third slot collecting six points each.

In the other billing of the day Hasibul Hasan Billal beat a lowly-rated Rafiqul Islam, for whom it was the ninth defeat in the meet.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rajib vs Hanif; Koshy vs Sudhakar, Kayes vs Shareen; Jamil vs Reefat; Lovelu vs Lodhi; Zia vs Mishra; Rafique vs Rakib.

Pabna soccer

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Oct 22: After a two week break the Meril First Division football tournament resumed today evening at the local stadium with Pabna Shiksharthi Sports Institute beating Agrani Shilpi Sangha 3-2 in the first semifinal played on the day.

The second semifinal will be played tomorrow which will be contested between Kashinathpur Khelwar Kalyan Samity and Mushtaq Smriti Sangha.

Juergen sticks to his guns

LONDON, Oct 22: Germany captain Juergen Klinsmann ended weeks of speculation about his immediate future when he said on Monday he was staying at Bayern Munich—and had no plans to return to England, reports Reuter.

Asked on BBC radio's European Football Show whether returning to England was a real possibility, Klinsmann, voted England's footballer-of-the-year for his performances with Tottenham in the 1994-95 season, gave an emphatic reply.

"No, not at the moment," he said. "In football you never know—anything can happen. In the last few weeks there were a couple of rumours going around because I had a few problems I didn't score for a couple of weeks and immediately they start to criticise you."

But now lately I scored again, so suddenly everything is perfect again. For me it was never a question of leaving just because I didn't score a goal for a few weeks."

He said he knew Tottenham fans were disappointed when he left London after only one year, but added: "I am also not the kind of person who always wants to leave a place after one or two seasons."

"I know that people were disappointed when I left Tottenham, but I explained it to the people and I don't want to do that again. I want people to feel I stay for a long time, and that is what I am going to do in Munich."

Asked if he could be tempted to join a club like Manchester United, he replied: "Big clubs always tempt you in a certain way, but I am playing in a very big club."

"I would say Bayern Munich is on the level of Manchester United, AC Milan, Juventus or Barcelona, so I am playing in

one of the best clubs in the world—I am happy and proud of it."

He also revealed he was seriously unhappy with Bayern when someone in the club leaked details of his contract to the media recently.

"I told the club I was very disappointed that contents of my contract were leaked to the media and I was very critical with a few people here but now it is in the past."

Klinsmann who led Germany to victory in Euro '96 in England in June, has struggled to find his form this season and has scored only a handful of goals.

His touch deserted him again on Sunday when he missed a number of clear cut chances in Bayern's 0-0 draw with champions Borussia Dortmund.

public, from the club, regarding certain clauses in my contract, for example that I can leave at the end of the season or a free transfer. So immediately the rumours started."

"I told the club I was very disappointed that contents of my contract were leaked to the media and I was very critical with a few people here but now it is in the past."

Klinsmann who led Germany to victory in Euro '96 in England in June, has struggled to find his form this season and has scored only a handful of goals.

His touch deserted him again on Sunday when he missed a number of clear cut chances in Bayern's 0-0 draw with champions Borussia Dortmund.

Krajicek to play in Kooyong Classic

MELBOURNE, Oct 22: Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek will play in the Kooyong Classic tennis tournament at Kooyong here in January, organisers said today, reports AFP.

The big-serving Dutchman will join world number one Pete Sampras in two-time event winner Michael Chang, Atlanta Olympic gold medalist Andre Agassi, French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Jim Courier and Thomas Enqvist in the round robin event between January 8-11.

Three Australians Jason Stoltenberg, Pat Rafter and Mark Woodforde will vie for the eighth and final place in the field in the lead-up to next year's opening Grand Slam tournament, the Australian Open, starting here on January 13.

No joke!

MADRID, Oct 22: A Spanish First Division player sent off for talking to the referee as if he were calling a dog claims he was only fooling around, reports Reuter.

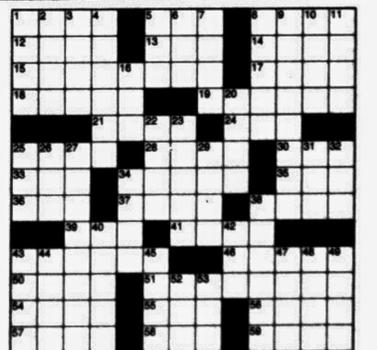
"Given the situation, I invited the referee to take the kick-off with me. It was a joke," said Logrones striker Manel Martinez, whose side had just conceded an eighth goal to Barcelona.

But referee Brito Arceo was far from amused. In his official match report, Arceo said Manel had spoken to him in a vulgar way and as if he were talking to a dog—with sounds emitted from the mouth.

"I'm not prepared for them to make fun of me."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Raindeer harder, perhaps 5 Tuckers partner 8 Counterfeit 12 Finished 13 Cavalier 14 Angelic emanation 15 Tennis stroke 17 Con 18 Now and then? 19 Summer shoe 21 Print-shop supply 24 Network 25 Pokes 26 Lotion additive 30 Erstwhile 33 --not choose to run? 34 Reduce to powder 36 Flamenco cheer 37 Low 38 Formerly 39 Epidemic 40 One of the Muses 41 Noble rank 43 Prized possessions 46 Lively dance 50 Stench 51 Abarth's ingredient 54 Farming prefix 55 Rushmore figure 56 Ferber or Millay 57 District, in ancient Attica 58 Blend 59 Stationer's quantity 60 Overwhelmed 1 Hay there in a way 22 Richard of "Home Improvement" 23 Golf goof 25 Cornical 26 Fuss 27 Constant reader 28 "Every winner" 31 Ring legend 32 Barbie's beau 34 Target 38 At an easier pace 40 Spooky 42 Turntable 43 "Grapes of Wrath" surname 44 Advantage 45 Made like a fish 47 Source of wealth 48 Hawaiian resort area 49 Leading man 52 Sapporo seat 53 King, to Caesar

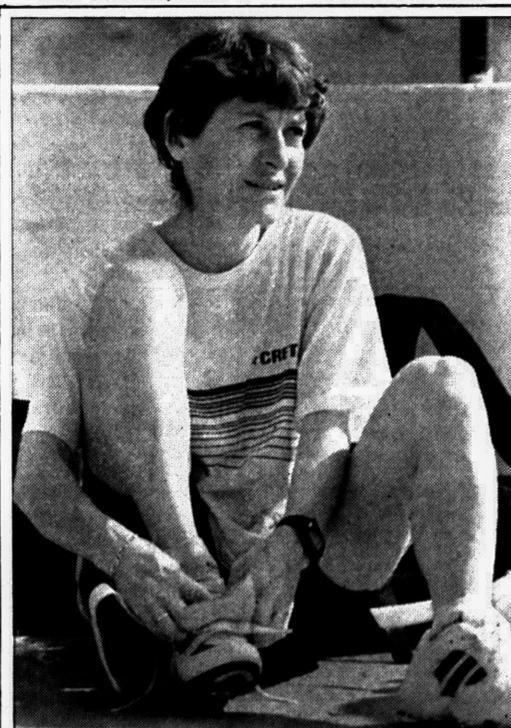


CRYPTOQUIP

URZISXIC XDGLR CQYMLC RSS MGV ID XY VFG CXYM CQPG XU VFG ZGP.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: VERY RIVETING SIGN POSTED IN TRAVEL AGENT'S WINDOW: PLEASE GO AWAY!

Today's Cryptquip clue: Z equals B The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



World cycling champion and Olympic gold medalist Jeannie Longo getting ready before a training ride in Mexico City on Oct 21. She is reportedly planning to rewrite the one-hour distance record. — AFP/UNB photo