

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THE Australian aborigines used the boomerang as a weapon and for sport. Made of hard wood, it is roughly V-shaped, with arms slightly skewed. The angle between the arms ranges from 90 to about 160 degrees. Both edges of the arm are sharpened, one surface is flat and the other slightly convex.

Now you have got to believe this. I have lost more boomerangs than I care to count. They never came back.

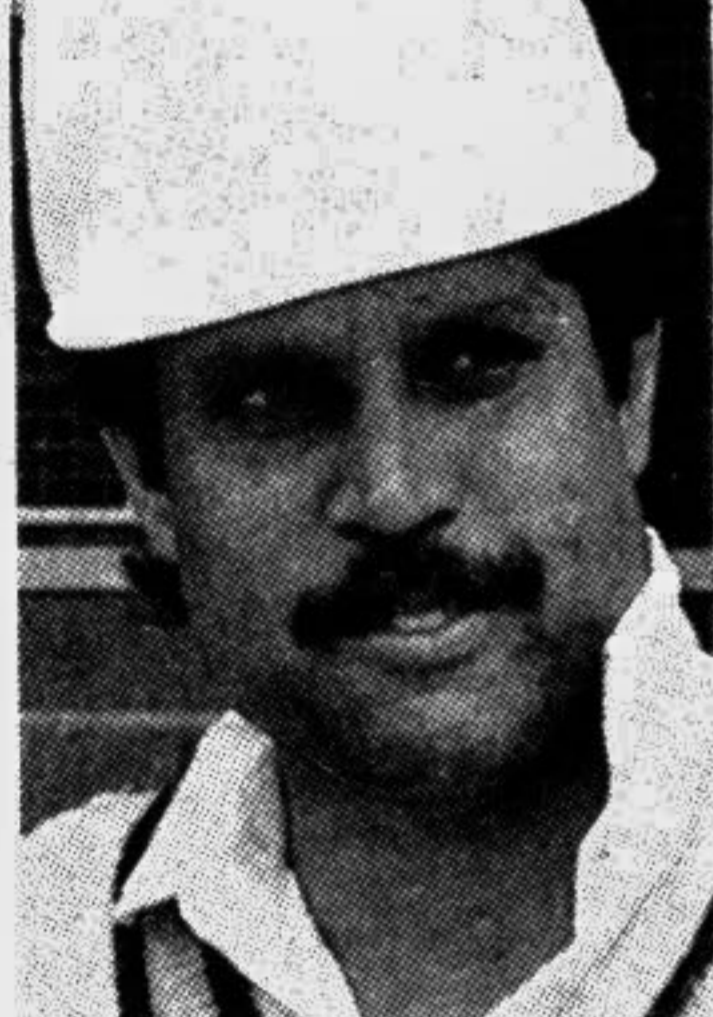
WIN TK, 2000/- PRIZE BOND EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-56

Table with 5 questions about sports records and winners. Includes names like Gary Kirsten, Wasim Akram, Hasan Raza, and Merrill.

Name: Roll No. School Address: Phone (if any):

SPORTS TALK



Kapil Dev (Former Indian all-rounder) 'It is my wish that players who work hard on the field should be well looked after. They should be given incentives to perform.'

Ferreira sent packing

STOCKHOLM, Nov 5: Briton Greg Rusedski ended any hope of South African Wayne Ferreira making the ATP Tour World Championships, defeating the top seed 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 here on Monday night in the first round of the Stockholm Open, report agencies.



Spectators crowd in front of the scoreboard at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday in search of some shade from the scorching heat. — Star photo

BU's rosy beginning

BRIEF SCORES DHANMONDI CLUB: 174/9 in 50 overs (Hira 79, Ripon 20, Moni 2/28, Munna 2/41). BROTHERS UNION: 177/4 in 44.5 overs (Bidyut 67, Jahangir 43 n.o., Akbar Beg 31).

Sri Lankan stars for Dhaka cricket. Ranatunga and Tillekeratne are the main attractions for the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Div I chess begins today

The 16-team First Division chess league begins today at the chess room of Bangladesh Chess Federation, reports UNB.

BSJA meeting

A special general meeting of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) will be held on Thursday at its office premises near Dhaka Stadium swimming pool, reports UNB.

Kapil Dev



Dhanmondi's opening batsman Hira sweeps one from Efee of Brothers Union in yesterday's match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. — Star photo

Ajax abase Wari

SPORTS REPORTER Ajax SC recorded a thumping seven-wicket win over Wari Club in the 17th Damal Smriti cricket tournament at the Mirpur City Club ground yesterday.

Rafique, who fell two runs short of what would have been a well-deserved half century, clubbed four fours and a six in his 55-ball stay at the crease.

Opener Adil scored the highest 35 for Wari while middle-order bat Sohail chipped in with 26.

Lara at the helm

PERTH, Australia, Nov 5: Brian Lara will captain the West Indies for the first time in a limited-overs day-night match against the West Australian state cricket team at the WACA Ground on Wednesday, reports AP.

Batting ace Lara will take over from tour captain Courtney Walsh, who will be rested for the second match of the tour.

An Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI scored a surprise three-wicket victory over the West Indies in their tour opener at Lilac Hill on Monday.

Julian scored a blistering 96 not out from 52 balls, with seven fours and six sixes, for the Chairman's XI on Monday.

An actor's act

MUMBAI, Nov 5: Film star Vinod Khanna yesterday announced cash prizes to the tune of one lakh rupees for the batsman who scores the fastest fifty (from either side) and the highest wicket taker in the Titan triangular limited overs series final to be held at the Wankhede Stadium here on Wednesday, reports PTI.

The batsman would win 50,000 rupees while the highest wicket taker would be richer by 50,000 rupees, the popular cine star told the news agency here.

Meanwhile, South Africans who will be taking on the hosts India in the final, had a strenuous work out in the morning.

The series are to 10 tournaments this year, with only two of them held outside the United States. It will expand to 21 next year with six new events in Europe and one each in Osaka, Japan, Seoul and Saudi Arabia.

ATP's top rankings

Table listing ATP Tour rankings for Nov 5. Top players include Sampras (4,375), Chang (3,837), Kafelnikov (3,486), Ivanisevic (3,222), Becker (3,213), Muster (3,166), Agassi (2,364), Enqvist (2,325), Ferreira (2,239), Rios (2,030), Martin (1,923), Costa (1,757), Edberg (1,590), Mantilla (1,589), Stich (1,518), Gustafsson (1,515), Siemierink (1,515), Roset (1,490), Pioline (1,468).

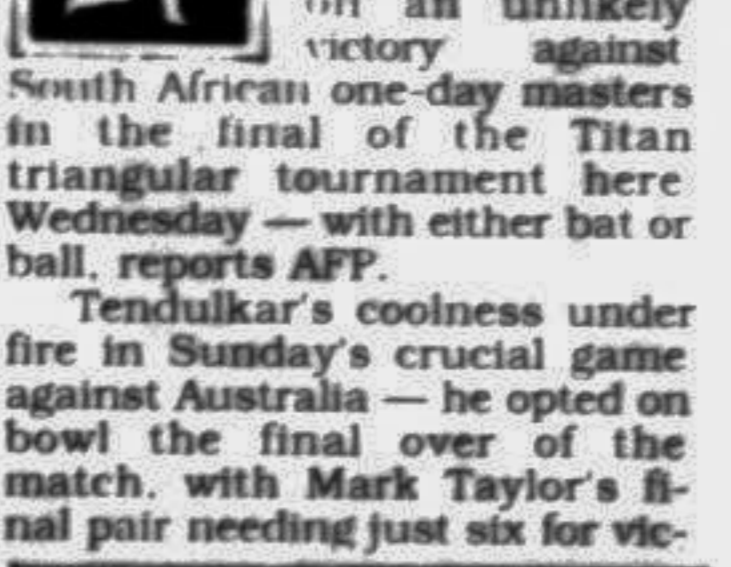
BOA's bold step

LONDON, Nov 5: British Olympic chiefs worried by the country's dwindling sporting status on Monday announced their backing for a 175-million pound (286-million dollars) plan for a national sports academy in Heyford, central England, reports Reuter.

British Olympic Association chairman Craig Reddie, pledge an annual one million pounds (1.64 million dollars) funding for the academy if it is built in Heyford.

Titan tourney final today

India need a Sachin show



SACHIN TENDULKAR

MUMBAI, Nov 5: India will rely on skipper Sachin Tendulkar to pull off an unlikely victory against South African one-day masters in the final of the Titan triangular tournament here Wednesday — with either bat or ball, reports AP.

Tendulkar's coolness under fire in Sunday's crucial game against Australia — he opted on bowl the final over of the match, with Mark Taylor's final pair needing just six for victory — earned his side the chance of a fourth crack at the unbeaten South Africans.

India's skipper, who launched Sunday's victory with 62 runs, said his top-order would hold the key during Wednesday's day-night finale.

South Africa, however, with seamer Fanie de Villiers fit again, will begin as huge favourites after whitewashing both India and Australia during the one-day tournament.

De Villiers, who has recovered from hamstring trouble, is South Africa's most economical bowler and is the only man to manage to shackle Tendulkar during the tournament.

Crucially — and bearing out Tendulkar's concerns — the



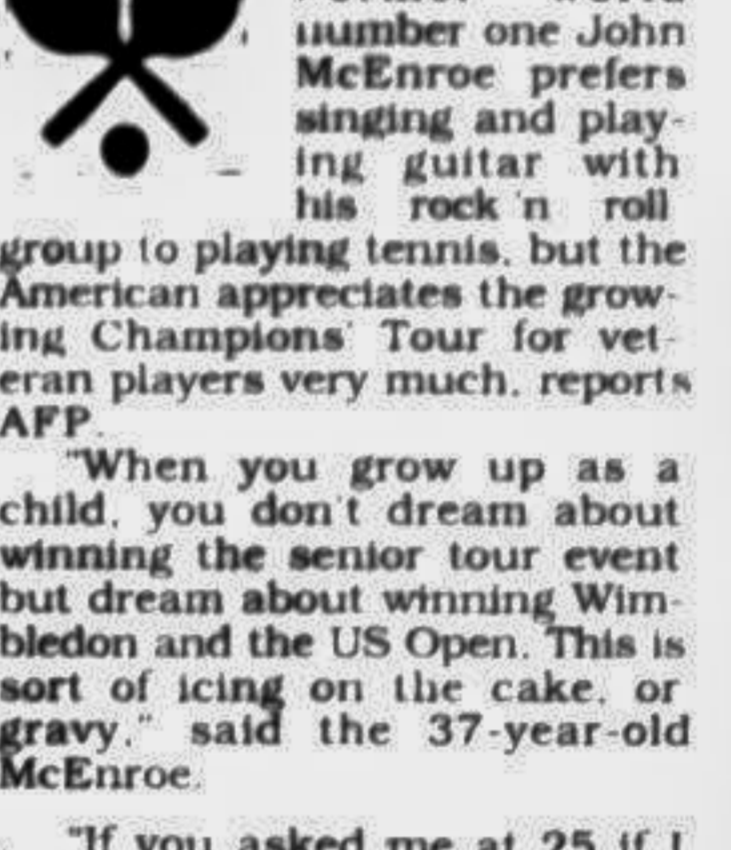
HANSIE CRONJE

home side has only managed to take 185, 214 and 222 during those three defeats.

To make matters worse India start Wednesday's game without opening batsman Navjot Singh Sidhu.

Sidhu, who has only just been recalled following a 50-day ban for walking out of India's tour to England earlier this year following a row with then-skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, was injured against Australia on Wednesday and has been replaced by Sanjay Manjrekar.

Mac, a player by any means



JOHN MCENROE

TOKYO, Nov 5: Former world number one John McEnroe prefers singing and playing guitar with his rock 'n' roll group to playing tennis, but the American appreciates the growing Champions Tour for veteran players very much, reports AP.

"When you grow up as a child, you don't dream about winning the senior tour event but dream about winning Wimbledon and the US Open. This is sort of icing on the cake, or gravy," said the 37-year-old McEnroe.

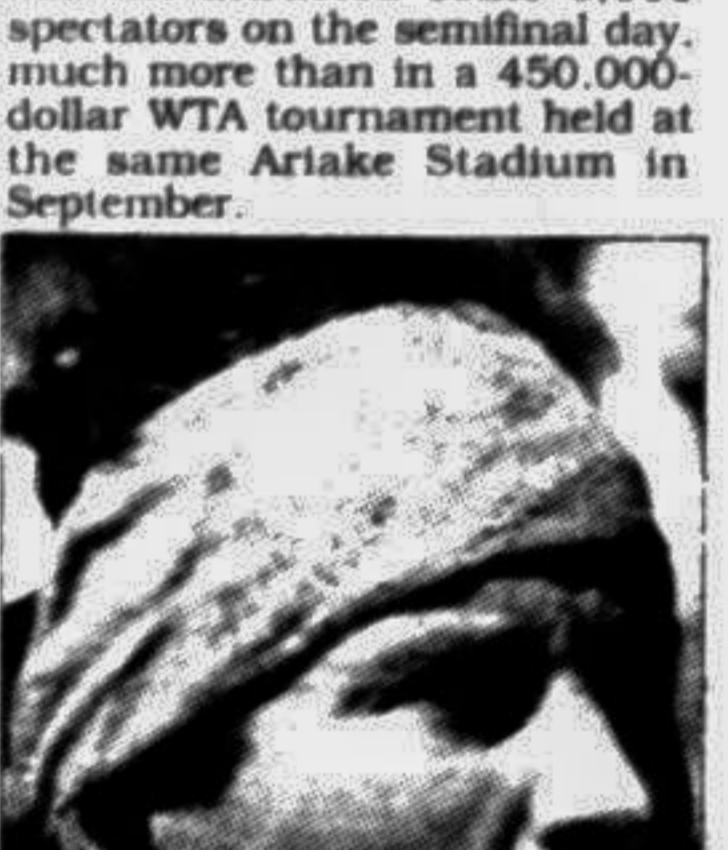
"If you asked me at 25 if I would play the senior's tour, I would have told I would rather stand on my head for six months."

"But as you get older, your views change a bit. It's nice to have an opportunity if you choose to do it to have this option available, you can't compare it with the (regular) circuit, but it's still fortunate for a lot of players to still have a chance to play tennis."

McEnroe defeated John Kriek of South Africa 6-4, 6-4 to win his first title of the season in Tokyo Monday and his second overall on the veteran's tour since he joined in 1995.

American tennis legend Jimmy Connors started the tour in 1993 with only three tournaments. Five-time Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg of Sweden was also involved in the fledgling tour.

Culprits in the soup



PETER BUSSE

BERLIN, Nov 5: Prosecutors are considering bringing charges against dozens of former East German secret police agents, doctors and others responsible for doping their country's Olympic athletes, officials said Tuesday, reports AP.

The investigation is centered on whether those who administered the banned performance-enhancing drugs can be charged with causing bodily harm, said Corinna Bischoff, a spokeswoman for the Berlin prosecutor's office.

More than 50 people are under investigation, and the number could rise, she said. Charges can be filed even if the athletes took the drugs voluntarily, she said, because they were not informed about the risks.

Athletes "would never have agreed to damage their health," she said. "They may have agreed to take certain drugs, but they more than likely were always told that it wasn't so bad."

Several ex-East German athletes have already come forward with health complaints, she said, although she declined to release names.

"Gathering the evidence is difficult," she added, because of the time elapsed and because prosecutors must prove that current health problems are directly related to the drugs.

Files from the old Ministry for State Security, or Stasi, contain evidence of doping dating to the 1972 Games in Munich, said Johan Legner, a spokesman for the government commission charged with reviewing the files.

"That was standard practice," Legner said.

At the 1976 Montreal Olympics, the athletes were given performance-enhancing drugs at a clandestine medical center set up by the Stasi outside the Olympic Village, newly disclosed files show.

Commission director Peter Busse told Deutschland Radio last weekend that the drugs were manufactured without any markings "so that no one would know where they came from in case they were found."

After the Games, he said, Stasi agents sank "10 suitcases with drugs, needles and tubes in the St. Lawrence River."

The information came from files that were shredded by the Stasi after the Wall fell in 1989, but before German unification in 1990, and were only recently put back together, Busse said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Kreskin's specialty 36 Draw 4 Chaps 7 Cupid's field 8 Inflated 10 Light on one's feet 11 Harm 13 Parlor piece 16 Before 17 Perfect spots 18 Apprehend 19 Wall to fill 20 Hotel furnishings 21 "— Entertainment" 23 Amino acids 25 Arduous journey 26 '60s dance 27 Football 28 Most of 30 Arthur or Lila 33 Acce-



CRYPTOQUIP DU'FU LCIK VHVUY VP RIUFPKVPN KWRK KWU NUPUFGCI LUDUZUF WRY R WURFK GH NGZY. Yesterday's Cryptogram: THE COMIC STRIP SHEEP CUSTOMARILY ENJOY MOST OF ALL IS "MUTTON JEFF". Today's Cryptogram clue: N equals G