

Manjrekar recalled for first Test

BARODA, India, Nov 17: The Indian selectors on Saturday announced a 14-man squad for the first Test against South Africa which starts on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

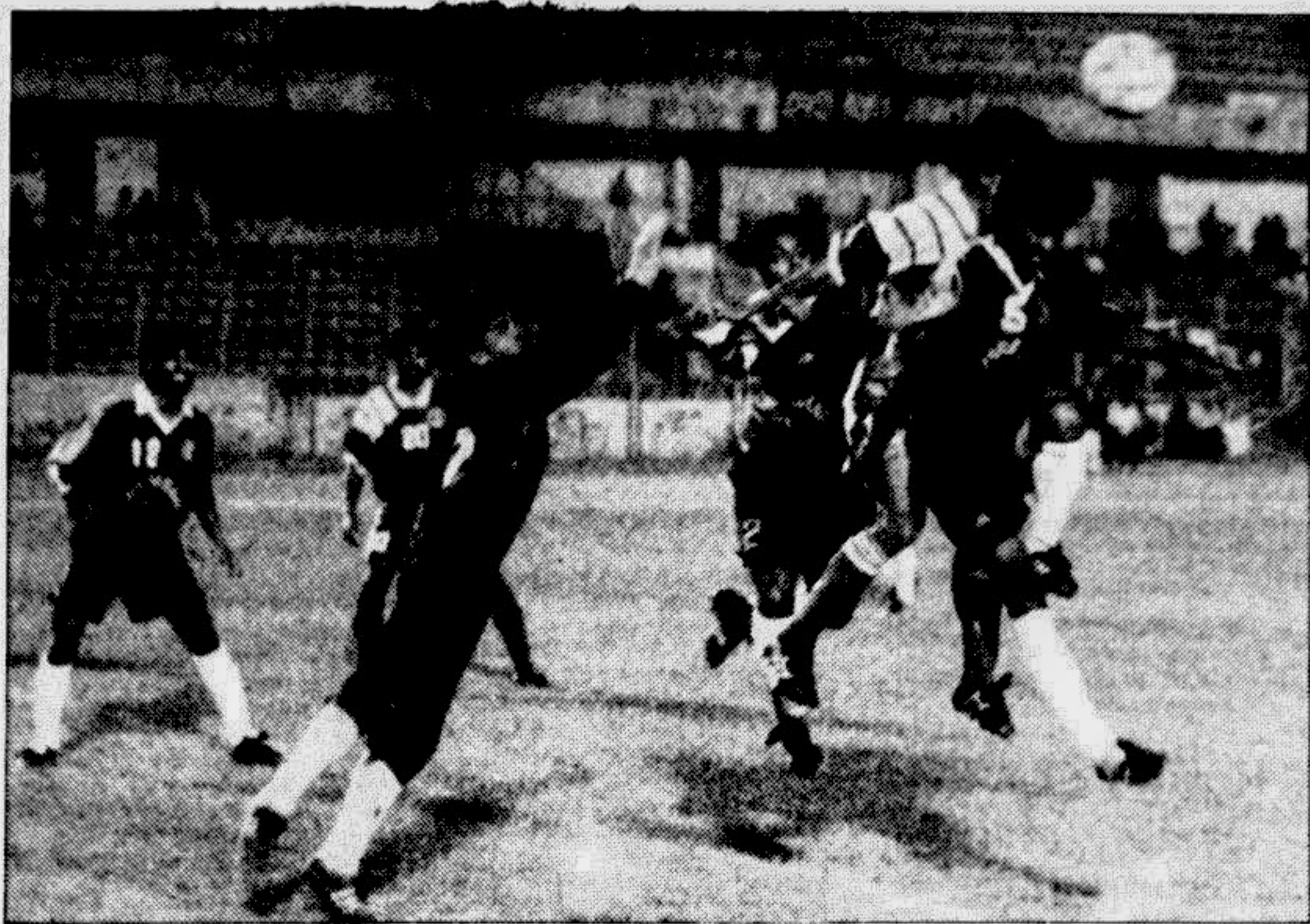
There are two changes from the side that beat the Australians in a one-off Test match in New Delhi, with Sanjay Manjrekar making a comeback at the expense of Vikram Rathore.

The second change is the inclusion of Pankaj Dharmani for the injured Saurav Ganguly.

The chairman of the Indian selection committee Ramakant Desai said that Manjrekar, a former Indian middle-order Test batsman, had written to the cricket board asking that he be considered only as an opening batsman.

Desai said the selectors had no other alternative to Manjrekar with Navot Sidhu injured and WV Raman recovering from an operation.

He said Manjrekar would open with wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia who scored a century in the match against Australia.



Muktijoddah's opportunist striker Nakib makes room for a difficult header while being sandwiched in between two Agrani Bank defenders during their league tie at the Mirpur stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Agrani Bank out of the red

Sachin Tendulkar (captain), Anil Kumble, Sanjay Manjrekar, Nayan Mongia, Mohammed Azharuddin, Rahul Dravid, VVS Lakshman, Pankaj Dharmani, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, David Johnson, Sunil Joshi, Ashish Kappor and Narendra Hirwani.

Headley acts his age

MT GAMBIE, Australia, Nov 17: England's strike bowler Dean Headley has cleared the air with Mike Atherton after upsetting the England captain over comments he made in Adelaide earlier this week, reports AFP.

Headley, the grandson of late West Indian great George Headley, bowled the tourists to victory over Sheffield Shield champions South Australia then referred to suggesting that Atherton had said he could not bowl an outswinger.

Headley's comments filtered back to Atherton and tour manager David Graveney said Saturday. "There was a reaction from London. Dean hasn't been forced to apologise to anybody but he realises that the wrong message might have been sent and he has contacted others via me."

Epic voyage!

FREMANTLE, Australia, Nov 17: An Australian teenager has become the youngest person ever to sail around the world non-stop and solo, reports Reuter.

But 18-year-old David Dicks and his 10-metre boat had to be towed into this Western Australian port for a hero's welcome today because a flotilla of around 200 other boats was blocking his way.

Port officials said Dicks had crossed the real finishing line, out at sea, late on Friday.

He has covered more than 50,000 kilometres (30,000 miles) since leaving Fremantle on February 26. On his way, he also became the youngest person to sail around Cape Horn — a feat made all the more impressive because he did it in winter with a damaged sail.

From the nearby city of Perth, had been hoping to become the youngest person to sail around the world unassisted.

Sports Reporter

Mosharraf Hossain in Tutul celebrated his seventh goal in the Danish Premier football league in style as Agrani Bank put behind the looming relegation threat with a stunning 2-1 win over a fancied Muktijoddha Sangsod Kriya Chakra at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The lanky striker scored his sixth goal in the 40th minute with a feeble shot that slipped between the legs of the shaky Muktijoddha goal-tender Arun Bikash Dewan and went on to slam the match-winner midway through the second half beating an off-side trap to enable Agrani Bank run away with three priceless points.

This was the second occasion in this year's league that the opportunist forward had scored twice in a match following his sensational double against Abahani Kriya Chakra in a first leg match that saw the bankers holding the defending champions to a two all draw.

The commendable victory for the boys of coach Hamid increased the bankers tally to 11 points from 12 matches. For Muktijoddha, the stinging defeat, their fourth in 12 league matches, confirmed their position at a point of no return in the title race. The all reds, who are already out of the league race, remained content with their earlier collection of 20 points from nine matches.

In front of almost empty terraces it was, however, a fitting contest between two evenly matched opponents with the bankers emerging as the deserving winners against their traditionally more fancied opponents in a ding-dong affair.

Although Tutul shot Agrani Bank in the first half, there was hardly any foray worth mentioning and the night's tale of exciting soccer was put on display in the later half.

Muktijoddha, smarting under custodian Arun's fatal lapse late minutes before the short whistle came up with renewed vigour in the post-leon session for the equaliser. But they were frustrated time and again by the flamboyant Agrani Bank custodian Milton who pulled off some brilliant saves to keep his side afloat.

In the 55th minute, Masud Rana fired a scorching right-footer from deep inside the box which Milton parried off diving to his left. It was Milton again who came in Muktijoddha's way nine minutes later when the young goal-tender, tipped a Naquib header for a corner.

After surviving those close calls, Agrani Bank caught the disorganised Muktijoddha defence napping in the 71st minute from a counter attack with Riaz setting Tutul free with defence-splitting through down the middle and the latter made no mistake in rounding off a hapless Arun for a 2-0 lead.

Although Arun was the more experienced and proven of the two goalies on show in the night, it was the little known Milton who came to his side's rescue repeatedly hardly ever showing any fit of nerves. In the 78th minute he made another reflex save from a pile-driver by Golam Gaus who missed a sitter five minutes later blasting the ball miles over the cross-piece from a vantage point.

Gaus, however, made amends for his blunder with gem of a square, from the left which substitute Ripon stabbed home past an on-rushing Milton for a consolation in the 89th minute. But that was not enough to save the day for Muktijoddha, who almost conceded another goal during the injury time when Munna's long-range shot returned to play after hitting the wood-work.

BIMA, BADDA SPLIT POINTS

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day, a Danish First Division schedule, Sadhan Bima and Badda Jagoran shared honours in a one-all draw.

In a lop-sided affair marked by two marching orders, Bima took the lead in the 38th minute through striker Sajedul Karim before Kamal of Badda restored parity converting a 12-yarder in the 66th minute.

Siraj of Badda got the marching order in the first half for kicking an opponent while Bima lost their captain Biplob for being shown the yellow card twice on charge of rough football.

The draw left Badda with 14 points from 12 matches while Bima increased their tally to 13 points, also from 12 matches.

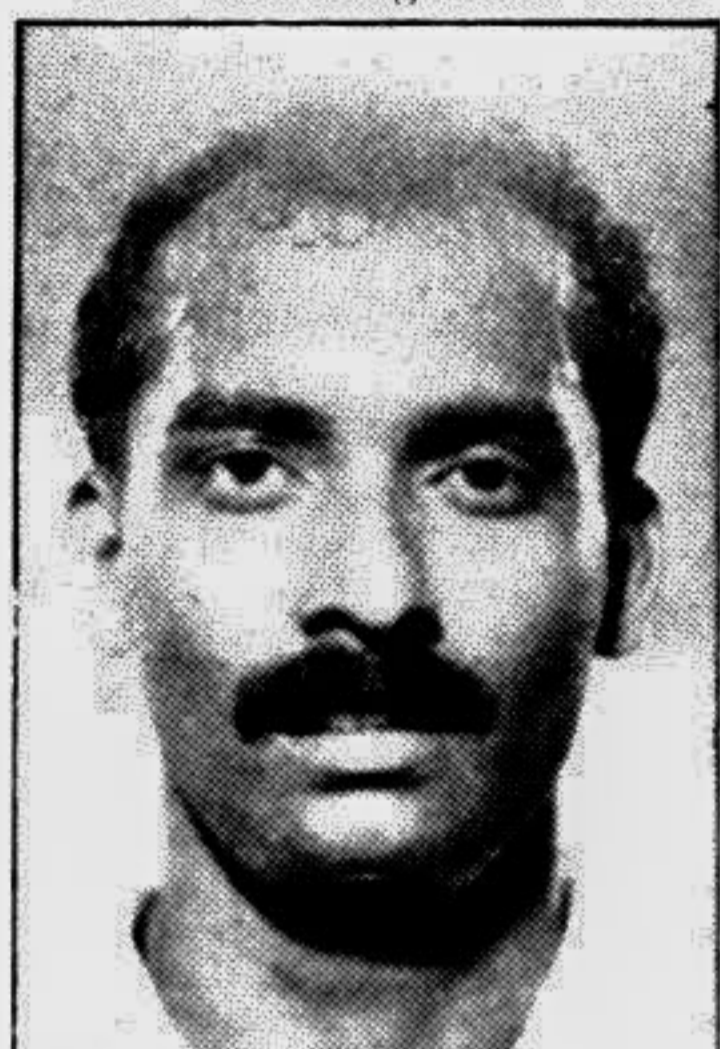
Smah kabaddi

Maniknagar Kabaddi Club and Dilkusha Sporting Club moved into the semifinal of Smah metropolis Kabaddi league eliminating their rivals in the quarters finals yesterday, reports UNB.

Both the semifinals will be held at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court today.

Azad Sporting Club will take on Maniknagar Kabaddi Club at 3 pm in the first semi while Sonali Bank Club will meet Dilkusha Sporting Club in the other semi at 4 pm.

In the quarter finals, Dilkusha SC beat Anirban Sangsod by 24-15 points (first half 11-2) while Maniknagar Kabaddi Club defeated Victoria SC by 30-12 points (first half 12-7).



TUTUL... double strike

Damal Smriti final round begins today

The six-team final round of the 17th Damal Smriti cricket tournament begins today at the Dhaka Stadium, reports UNB.

Holders Mohammedan SC will play the opening match against Lalmita Club.

Last year's runners-up Abahani will meet Ajax Sporting Club the following day.

The six teams are divided in two groups:

Group X: Mohammedan SC, Kalabagan KC and Lalmita Club.

Group Y: Abahani Limited, Agrani Bank CC and Ajax SC.

Initially, the teams will play the group matches on league basis. Later, two top teams from each group will play the semi-finals, billed for November 25 and 26.

The final match is slated for November 28.

Two recognised cricketing powers — Bangladesh Biman and Brothers Union — failed to reach the final round of the current raise meet, losing to Ajax SC and Agrani Bank respectively in the group tussle.

The tournament committee has announced the ticket prices for the final round matches.

Rates of ticket for the league matches: VIP gate No. 1 — Tk 50, Gallery (both East and West) — Tk 15.

Season ticket: VIP gate No. 1 — Tk 400 and VIP gate No. 3 — Tk 250.

Rates of ticket for semi-finals: VIP gate No. 1 — Tk 75, gallery Tk 20.

Rates of ticket for final: VIP gate No. 1 — Tk 100 and gallery Tk 30.

Windies forced to follow on

HOBART, Nov 17: The fine form of wicketkeeper Courtney Browne was the only bright spot for the West Indies on Sunday as the tourists fought to avoid defeat on the third day of their four-day cricket match against an Australian XI, reports AP.

Browne scored an unbeaten 93 but could not prevent the West Indies being forced to follow on at Bellerive Oval.

New South Wales pacesman Anthony Stuart took 4-104 and Queensland fast bowler Andrew Bichel 4-61 as the West Indies were dismissed for 317 in reply to the Australian XI's imposing first innings total of 544 for four declared.

At stumps, the tourists were 102 for two in their second innings, still trailing by 125 runs overall with Shivnarine Chanderpaul on 42 and night-watchman Ian Bishop one.

Hall to head WICBC panel

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Nov 17: Former Test fast bowler and team manager Wes Hall has been voted chairman of West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) said, reports Reuter.

A spokesman said on Saturday that Hall was elected at the WICBC general meeting in Antigua. He replaces fellow Barbadian David Holford, who did not seek re-election.

In a separate move, WICBC chief executive Steve Camacho said former captain Viv Richards had agreed to join the management team of Marshall and Clive Lloyd with a brief to coach throughout the Caribbean islands.

The appointment signals the end of a long-running rift between Richards and the board.

Lobbying for Elliott's cap

HOBART, Australia, Nov 17: Former Australian cricket captain Richie Benaud and Ian Chappell Sunday backed Victorian opener Matthew Elliott to make his Test debut against the West Indies this week, reports AFP.

Australia's selection panel linked up by telephone late Sunday to choose the side they hope will retain the Sir Frank Worrell Trophy won so convincingly in the Caribbean last year.

The team will be named Monday with the first Test getting underway in Brisbane on Friday.

Uppermost in their minds is picking a No 3 batsman capable of withstanding the Windies' four-pronged pace battery.

With veteran Steve Waugh now the backbone of the side at five, the two main candidates for No 3 are uncapped 25-year-old Elliott and 21-year-old Tasmanian Ricky Ponting.

Chappell, who led Australia to a 2-0 series triumph in the West Indies in 1972-73, left New South Wales left-hander Michael Bevan out of his 12 and included Queensland pacesman Mike Kasprovicz.

Benaud, who was captain during the famous tied Test against the Windies at the Gabba in 1960-61, chose just four bowlers in his 12 to include Bevan, Ponting and Elliott.

Both men, television commentators, had Elliott at No 3 behind captain Mark Taylor and opening partner Michael Slater.

Of equal concern is finding an Australian attack capable of taking 20 wickets.

Victorian seamer Paul Reiffel and leg-spinner Shane Warne are certainties.

A possible Test 12 is: Mark Taylor (capt), Michael Slater, Matthew Elliott, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Ian Healy, Shane Warne, Paul Reiffel, Glenn McGrath, Michael Kasprovicz, Jason Gillespie.

SA scuttle Board Eleven

BARODA, India, Nov 17: South Africa needed less than an hour to wrap up their three-day game against an Indian Board President's XI with a convincing 10-wicket win, reports Reuter.

Starting the last day needing just 68 runs for victory, South African openers Andrew Hudson (26 not out) and Gary Kirsten (37 not out) took the tourists to success.

It was a good curtain-raiser for the tourists who play India in the first Test on Wednesday.

The local side were without Venkatapathy Raju, the left-arm spinner who grabbed six wickets for 64 runs in the tourists' first innings, for most of the morning. He had sustained a hairline fracture on his bowling arm while trying to stop a drive from Kirsten.

Devastating fast bowling by the South African pace trio of Fanie de Villiers, Lance Klusener and Brian McMillan put paid to the home side's hopes in the western Indian city of Baroda.

South Africa, who had eked out a narrow 27-run lead on the first innings, bowled out the local side for 94 in their second innings by the 36th over and set themselves a target of 68.

De Villiers took four for 37, Klusener three for 29 and McMillan three for 14.

With the exception of VVS Lakshman who scored 27 and skipper Saba Karim who scored 23 none of the local batsmen looked capable of handling the South African bowling.

The pitch, though slow, had some degree of uneven bounce in it although the home team's woes could not be blamed on this. Most of the batsmen looked ill-equipped to handle the pace barrage.

The Board Eleven had looked reasonably safe at the tea interval at 23 for one, with Vikram Rathore out leg before to De Villiers in the first over of the innings.

The collapse after tea was totally unexpected.

With De Villiers probing batsmen for their weaknesses and Klusener and McMillan hustling them with short-pitched deliveries, the Indian

batsmen caved in without much fight.

Earlier in the day, some fine spin bowling by Raju helped the Indian selection restrict the tourists to 206 in its first innings.

South Africa reached this score largely thanks to Hershel Gibbs who top-scored with 74 runs off 165 deliveries with ten fours and a six.

BRIEF SCORES

BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI	
First innings	179
Second innings	94
SOUTH AFRICA:	206
First innings	94
Second innings	70 for no loss
Result:	South Africa won by ten wickets.

Calzado new FIH chief

BRUSSELS, Nov 17: Spain's Juan Angel Calzado was elected president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) here Saturday for a four-year term on Saturday, reports AFP.

The 59-year-old Calzado takes over from Frenchman Etienne Decroix who had held the post since 1984 but who was not seeking re-election.

Fujimura wins Tokyo Marathon

TOKYO, Nov 17: Japan's Nobuko Fujimura defeated Olympic and world champions to win the Tokyo women's marathon in two hours 28 minutes and 58 seconds today, reports AFP.

Fujimura overtook Atlanta gold medalist Fatuma Roba of Ethiopia at the 35 kilometres (22 mile) mark and went on to beat front running world champion Manuela Machado of Portugal.

Machado, seeking to improve upon her seventh-place finish in Atlanta, got past the Olympic champion after 31 kilometres, but had to be satisfied with second spot in 2:29:32.

London marathon winner Liz McColgar of Britain was third in 2:30:50, while Roba finished eighth in 2:35:23.

"When I won a marathon before, I ran aggressively from the very beginning, never thinking of arriving at a goal. When I was no good, I was always running at the back. Today, I could run at my own pace," said Fujimura, 30.

Roba has been always my target, so that when I overtook her, I galvanized me very much. I felt I gained momentum after that... but I could never imagined I would come in first before the race."

Fujimura added that she now had more confidence looking forward to the World Championships next year.

It was Fujimura's second win out of eight full marathon starts.



Nobuko Fujimura of Japan reaches the finish line to win the 18th Tokyo International women's marathon on Nov 17. — Reuter/UNB photo

Hingis ringing the changes

NEW YORK, Nov 17: Steffi Graf and Monica Seles have the year's top records entering the season-ending WTA Championships, but a 16-year-old Swiss sensation might just swipe the spotlight from both of them, reports AFP.

Martina Hingis, who beat Monica Seles a week ago in their first-ever meeting, likes her chances in the WTA's two million-dollar showdown that begins here Monday.

"I have a good chance. I can beat any player," Hingis said. "I have to keep playing like I have the past several weeks. But there are still 15 other players there."

None are hotter than Hingis, who became the youngest player in tennis history to win one million dollars. She beat Seles 6-2, 6-0, in 52 minutes last week in a final to reach a career-best ranking of sixth in the world.

"There's no doubt she is going to be a force," Seles said. "She is so young and she is only going to get better. That's the scary part."

Hingis won her first two WTA titles in the past two months and achieved a goal by reaching the 16-player championship. She has beaten nine of the world's 10 top-ranked players this year and is already a Grand Slam threat.

"It's always hard to see into the future," Hingis said.

"But I think I am on the right way reaching the WTA champ-

ionships was one of my biggest goals and I made it. I am really happy with my tennis right now."

Hingis, who opens against Romania's Irina Spirlea, faces a possible second-round rematch with Seles, who would first have to inflict a career-ending defeat upon Japan's Kimiko Date.

Date, Japan's greatest tennis star, plans to retire after this event, ending a career that featured three consecutive Japan

sudova after receiving a boost to her spirits off the court.

Peter Graf, Steffi's father, was released from a German jail Friday on 3.3 million dollars bail after spending 15 months there on tax evasion charges.

His daughter's emotions have been on edge during his incarceration. But Steffi has understood the troubles to win US Open, French Open and Wimbledon titles despite lingering soreness in her left knee.

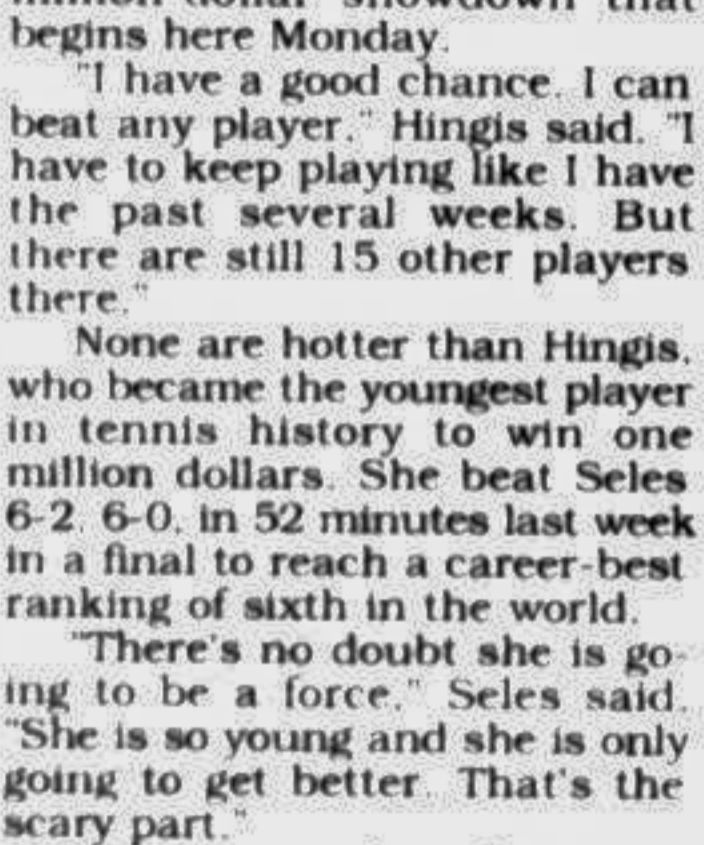
Graf has also won the German Open, Key Biscayne and Indian Wells titles to help reclaim sole possession of the world number one ranking earlier this month when Seles fell to co-number two.

Despite Graf's record run of 359 weeks at the top, it is her showing here that will show whether or not she keeps that status. Graf has won the WTA Championships in 1987, 1989, 1993 and last year. Seles won from 1991-1992.

Spaniards Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Conchita Martinez are also top threats. Sanchez opens against Dutch veteran Brenda Schultz-McCarthy.

Martinez plays first against Austria's Judith Wiesner.

Other openers match Austria's Barbara Paulus against Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport. South Africa's Amanda Coetzer against Czech Jana Novotna and Croatia's Iva Majoli against Germany's Anke Huber.



MARTINA HINGIS



STEFFI GRAF

Continents clash in race for gold

By Phil Minshull from London

Enthusiasm to stage the Olympics has never been greater, with would-be venues currently seeking to impress the selectors. While some of the favoured European cities vie for a second bite at hosting the Games, reports Gemini News Service, Africa and South America are bidding for a taste of sports' greatest prize.

THE race is on for the 2004 Olympics — an event for a gold medal and no silver or bronze.

A record 11 cities are vying for the biggest prize in sport, and the 19-strong evaluation commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is currently visiting the candidates to examine facilities.

In March, the team will reduce the list to four or five, with the winning venue decided by vote among the 113 IOC members next September.

Rome has been widely touted as the favourite. Is fortunes are closely linked to one man — Primo Nebiolo, the autocratic president of both the International Amateur Athletics Federation and the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, who has as many friends as enemies in sport.

He seems to have accepted that he will never be IOC president after the incumbent, 76-year-old Juan Antonio Samaranch, recently announced amended rules to allow him to stand for another four-year term. Originally a native of Turin, Nebiolo, 72, now sees bringing the Olympics to his adopted home as the crowning glory of his career.

Much to the chagrin of many IOC members, he has used both organisations he heads to propel Rome's bid.

The Italian capital, which staged the 1960 Olympics, is blessed with good infrastructure, updated for the 1990 World Cup soccer, improved political and economic stability, and the fact that many IOC members see 2004 as "Europe's turn" for the Games.

However, African members strongly disagree, and are backing Cape Town's bid to be the first city on the continent to stage the Olympics.

South Africa, with a proud

sporting tradition, has attracted much political goodwill towards the city's application. But its chances have been damaged by reports of a high crime rate. IOC members also worry about the prospects for stability after President Nelson Mandela retires.

Athens, meanwhile, appears in the ascendancy. Officials in the Greek capital are trying to convince the world that they were hard done by eight years ago when their complacency over the destination of the 1996 Olympics let them down and they were passed over for the centennial Games.

Athens, which staged the first modern version of the ancient Greek contest in 1896, has excellent facilities. But despite a five-year facelift, the city has still not shed its reputation for pollution and traffic congestion. And the 1997 World Athletics Championships, to be staged there next August, have already suffered from some organisational problems.

Stockholm is another favoured city bidding to stage the event for a second time. In 1912 a well-organised Games

there helped the Olympic movement to survive the looming global upheavals.

Ten big Swedish companies have already signed up for partnership in the bid company, Sweden 2004 AB. "It was easier than expected to find firms interested in part-ownership," said bid chief executive Olof Stenhammar.

Buenos Aires is regarded as the least likely of the leading contenders to make it to the voting stage — outshine, in many eyes, by its four main rivals.

The Argentine capital has failed on four previous occasions. It has good hotels, transport and sports facilities, having hosted the 1982 South American Games and the 1995 Pan American Games.

Its bid makes great play of its contribution to the IOC — Argentina having been involved in its creation in 1894 — but the country has not had an Olympic champion since 1952, and bagged only three medals in the '96 Games in Atlanta.

Istanbul is the only candidate for the 2000 Olympics to bounce straight back for another go.

It has been made of it being the gateway between Europe and Asia, but as such, it is likely to fall between the two continental camps when it comes to winning support. And the Turkish city is not helped by the population boom which is straining its infrastructure.

Seville's bid is supported by its successful staging of Expo '92, but weakened by the unlikelihood of an early return to Spain after the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

Lille has come up with the novel idea of spreading the Games throughout northern France, with some events even proposed for the English county of Kent. But the regional concept will be alien to many IOC members.

A British newspaper pundit commented wryly: "If Lille makes it past the Evaluation Commission you will be able to count its IOC votes on the fingers of one hand and still have a couple to spare."

St Petersburg has the experience of staging the 1994 Goodwill Games, but memories of swimming pools infested with sewage and defrosting ice rinks will only add to worries over Russia's political and economic woes.

Rio de Janeiro's bid is tainted by the city's crime wave and economic problems, while the rank outsider is seen as San Juan in Puerto Rico, which, none the less, won the prize for eagerness by being the first city to declare an interest in staging the 2004 Games. — Gemini News

About the Author: Phil Minshull is a British sports writer and broadcaster who is a regular contributor to the Daily Telegraph in London, the British Broadcasting Corporation World Service and Sport Business magazine.

Olympic origins



First Games were at Olympia, Greece. They lasted one day and had one event — a race the length of the stadium.

Games continued every four years until 393 AD when Roman Emperor Theodosius I abolished them after Greece lost independence.

Baron de Coubertin, a French scholar, persuaded Paris to re-start Games.

First Games of modern times took place in Athens.