talent-spotting

tralian soccer coach Terry Ven-

ables, appointed to take charge

for the 1998 World Cup, is to in-spect overseas-based Austra-

lian players for friendly mat-

ches in Macedonia and Hungry,

his country to the semifinals of

the 1996 European Champi-

onship, said today a four-day

training camp in either Britain

or Holland would replace a pro-

posed match against Croatia

David Hill said because of time

constraints the Croatian match

had been scrapped out of fair-

ness to Venables and players

who had responsibilities to

a world cup finals appearance

since 1974, about 75 Australian

players are currently signed up

to teams in 20 countries in Eu

Venables told a news confer-

ence roughly 22 players would

be selected for the European

camp. He had the names he had

"more or less" already in mind,

though he had yet to make for-

play Macedonia on March 12

and Hungary on April 2, he

Squads would be chosen to

rope, Asia and South America.

While country has not made

Soccer Australia chairman

scheduled for February 25.

Briton Venables, who guided

reports Reuter.

their clubs.

mal offers.

ADELAIDE, Feb 4: New Aus-

LONDON, Feb 4:

Scotland, Wales

and Northern Ire-

land entered the

war of words ra-

ging over Engla-

nd's showdown with UEFA over

the bid to stage the 2006 World

tions told the Football Associa-

tion (FA) that they had no

knowledge of UEFA's endorse-

ment of Germany's bid for the

competition until the "killer

fax" from Switzerland arrived

meeting at a hotel in London's

Heathrow Airport, they gave FA

chief executive Graham Kelly

their unanimous backing to

bring football's premier event

back to Britain for the first

"We certainly knew nothing

about UEFA making a decision

two years ago, and if they did

then it's news to us," said Irish

utes of the meeting supposed to

have decided in Germany's

favour showed no such deci-

the FA of Wales, added: "I was at

these meeting and have no

memory of such a decision be-

from the three other home na-

tions of the FA's version of

events — flatly contradicted by

UEFA president Lennart Jo-

confirmed they were equally

unaware of any decision being

pi Stadium shouldn't stop Ju-

ventus from claiming the Euro-

European Super Cup winner,

takes a 6-1 advantage from the

first leg into Wednesday night's

Juventus aim to become the

question mark hangs

over the future of one of

▲ the highlights of Asia's

sporting calendar — the Rugby

strength to strength over the

years, and Hong Kong en-

The contest has grown from

third Italian team in four years

to take the Super Cup. AC Milan

won in 1994, AC Parma in 1993.

return match here with Paris-

St Germain.

Sevens.

for the contest.

making deals.

Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank-

ing Corporation were the main

sponsors, contributing about

The Italian club, the 1984

pean Super Cup, reports AP.

"All three associations have

Feb 4: Even pla-

ying a "home" ma-

tch 900 kilome-

tres (560 miles)

from its Delle Al-

hansson — was accurate.

David Collins, secretary of

Kelly said that confirmation

Bowen added that the min-

FA secretary David Bowen.

And at a hastily-arranged

last week.

time since 1966.

sion.

ing taken."

The other three home na-

Cup on Monday, reports AFP.



Boxing promoter Don King (C) holds up Evander Holyfield (R) and Mike Tyson's hands af--AFP/UNB photo

ter a press conference in New York on Feb 3. Holyfield, a hopeful hulk



(AP): Same name. different fighter same result. That's how Evander Holyfield views his May 3 rematch against

Mike Tyson. "I don't look for the Tyson fought Nov. 9." Holyfield said Monday. "But don't look for the same Holyfield either. "I'll be

go out and do the same thing." "I hope to do better next time ... I promise," Tyson said in a seven-second address at a news conference that formally announced the rematch at the

better. I'm confident that I can

MGM Grand in Las Vegas. During a question-and-answer session later, however, Tyson said, "I'm going to win the title for a third time. I just had a bad night. "I'm the best fighter in the world. If he beats me this time, he'll beat me at

ing for a knockout." Tyson was a 3-1 favourite at the MGM Grand sports book to regain the WBA heavyweight title. He was a 7-1 choice when he was stopped in the 10th round by Holyfield at the Grand

the best I've ever been. I'm look-

in November. One of Tyson's problems in

NEW YORK. Feb 4 preparing for the first fight, co- A Tyson victory in the paymanager John Horne said, was that most saw Holyfield "as no real threat to Mike Tyson. Nobody took him seriously."

> Richie Giachetti has since replaced Jay Bright as Tyson's

There was a lot of trash talk by the Tyson camp at a New York news conference before the first fight. Everyone was respectful Monday.

"This is the type of atmosphere a Tyson-Holyfield fight is supposed to bring," promoter Don King said. Tyson thanked Holyfield for

giving him the chance. Holyfield thanked Tyson for having given him a chance so that he could give Tyson a chance.

"The Sound and the Fury" is what King is calling the rematch. At times Monday, it seemed a better name might be "Hearts and Flowers."

Whatever anyone chooses to call it, it's a major fight. The 34-year-old Holyfield, who got 11 million dollars in November, will get at least 35 million in May. Tyson, who made 30 million dollars in the first fight, will get at least 20 million for the rematch.

An unidentified employee of the Sporting Goods and Fashion Fair poses with a new 'Big

Maldini's chosen ones

ported fit, dispelling fears he

would not play. He left the field

suffering from stomach pains

during last Sunday's league

match that Milan lost 3-2 at

have four players on the roster

fender Ciro Ferriara, midfielder

Angelo Di Livio and

imaginative forward Alessan-

cluding defender Antonio Be-

narrivo and striker Enrico

Chiesa. Both are returning to

the national side after a brief

name two of the leading First

Division scorers — Sampdoria

teammates Roberto Manchini

and Vincenzo Montella. Both

have been consistently left off

•The veteran Mancini has 13

goals this season and Montella,

a rookie, has 12. Their goals

have vaulted Sampdoria to sec-

ond place in the overall league

lan's virtuosi Roberto Baggio,

off the national since his hero-

Moldova at home on March 13.

Other Group Two teams are Geo-

SQUAD

GOALKEEPER: Angelo Pe-

DEFENDERS : Ciro Fer-

rara: Alessandro Costacurta

and Paolo Maldini: Fabio Can-

navaro and Antonio Benarrivo;

Alessandro Nesta : Salvatore

MIDFIELDERS: Angelo Di

Fresi, Christian Panucci.

After England, Italy take on

ics in the 1994 World Cup.

ruzzi; Francesco Toldo.

gira and Poland.

Also missing was AC Mi-

despite their offensive skills.

As expected, Maldini did not

Parma also have four in-

League leaders Juventus

goalie Angelo Peruzzi, de-

home to Sampdoria.

dro Del Piero.

standings.

cat' off-road inline skate in Munich on Feb 3.

ROME, Feb 4: Italy

will rely on three

stars of the Eng-

lish Premiere Lea-

gue for the vital

World Cup Group

Two qualifying match that the

England at Wimbley Feb. 12,

Roberto Di Matteo, teammates

at Chelsea, and Fabrizio Ra-

vanelli, of Middlesbrough, were

named by newly-appointed

coach Cesare Maldini in a list

of 21 players for the match

featuring the two undefeated

with three wins in as many

games and nine points in the

group standings. Italy have six

points from two wins in two

rigo Sacchi on the national

team bench in December, was

conservative in his choices,

naming mostly players who

will be different as he showed

in the recent friendly against

Northern Ireland in Palermo, a

2-0 victory in which he tested a

on midfield pressing and the

fourth expatriate. Christian Panucci, who plays in Spain

Sacchi centred his defence

The side also included a

Defending league champi-

ons AC Milan, who is going

through a serious crisis in this

season, contributed defenders

Alessandro Costacurta and

Paolo Maldini and midfielder

national team coach, was re-

Paolo Maldini, son of the

tight defence using a sweeper.

off-side tactics.

with Real Madrid.

Demetrio Albertini.

However. Maldini's tactic

were part of Sacchi's team.

Maldini, who succeeded Ar-

England enter the match

group powerhouses.

reports AP.

matches.

Azzurri" will play against

Gianfranco Zola and

per-view match would set up a

lucrative rematch. The most intriguing aspect of the fight, however, is what happens to Tyson's career should he lose.

"You tell me," Tyson said. Meanwhile, AFP adds from Cologne Holyfield has decided not to use Germany's Axel Schulz as a sparring partner in his preparations for the re-

match against Tyson. Holyfield told private German television channel Premiere on Monday that Schulz was unsuitable because he didn't have the same physical dimensions as Tyson.

Schulz is German boxing's biggest budding talent who has dramatically failed to flower. On three occasions last year he lost world title bouts, largely because of his passive style in

the ring. "The second fight won't last as long as the first," Holyfield said." Of course Tyson will work hard on himself and improve himself in the ring because he knows he has to improve to beat me. What he doesn't know though is that I will lift myself as well. That way I'm one ahead

King to be retried

NEW YORK, Feb 4: A federal judge on Monday refused to toss out insurance fraud charges against boxing promoter Don King, clearing the way for a second trial after a jury in the case could not reach a verdict more

than a year ago, reports AP.
US District Judge Lawrence McKenna said in a written ruling that there was sufficient evidence to permit a retrial, although he did not immediately set a date.

King was accused of faking a contract with Lloyd's of London to collect 350,000 dollars in nonexistent training expenses for a cancelled bout. If convicted of nine counts of wire fraud, the 65-year-old promoter would face up to 45 years in federal prison and a 2,250,000-dollar fine.

King's lawyer, Peter Fleming Jr, did not immediately return a telephone call Monday but has said in the past that King was ready for the next legal round.

In his 45-page ruling Monday, McKenna noted that he was required by law to take as true the testimony of all government witnesses for the purposes of deciding whether a trial

should take place. King was indicted after his company submitted an insurance claim asking Lloyd's of London for 350,000 dollars in non-refundable training fees paid to Julio Cesar Chavez for a 1991 cancelled bout with Harold Brazier.

Chavez, former World Boxing Council super lightweight champion, testified that King paid him only 80,000 dollars to train and never told him about an insurance claim.

A decade ago, King was acquitted of skimming 1 million dollars from Don King Produc-

Swedish ban on boxing stays

STOCKHOLM, Feb 4: The Swedish parliament maintained its 27-year ban on boxing here on Monday despite a three party alliance that wanted the embargo lifted, reports AFP.

The legislature decided to prolong the ban despite the objections of the tripartite alliance, conservatives, former Communists and Christian Democrats, relying on medical advice which stated that the injuries sustained by fighters were too serious and boxing remained a dangerous sport.

Long slide for Agassi, Becker

PARIS, Feb 4 (AFP): Revised ATP men's tennis rankings issued Monday after wrong amount of points were attributed

| | ount of points we | | Juteti |
|---|--|-------|--------|
| | after Zagreb Open: | | |
| | 1. Sampras | 577 | 4 (Pts |
| | 2. Ivanisevic | | 3572 |
| N | 3. Muster | | 3492 |
| | 4. Chang | | 3417 |
| | 5. Kafelnikov | | 3367 |
| | 6. Krajicek | | 2371 |
| | 7. Rios | | 2329 |
| | 8. Ferreira | 92 | 2221 |
| | 9. Moya | | 2171 |
| | 10. Enqvist | | 2109 |
| | 11. Costa | | 2036 |
| | The Control of the Co | | 1948 |
| į | 12. Agassi | | |
| | 13. Becker | | 1931 |
| | 14. Martin | | 1840 |
| 1 | 15. Mantilla | | 1688 |
| | 16. Edberg | | 1581 |
| | 17. Henman | | 1540 |
| | 18. Gustafsson | | 1537 |
| | 19. Stich | 55472 | 1516 |
| | 20. Berasategui | | 1477 |
| | | | |

Sampras tops earners' list

MONACO, Feb 4 (Reuter): Leading prize-money winners issued by the ATP Tour on

| Monday (in US do | lars): |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Sampras | 457,178 |
| 2. Moya | 253,889 |
| 3. Woodbridge | 167,668 |
| 4. Ivanisevic | 143,145 |
| 5. Muster | 131,254 |
| 6. Woodforde | 127,668 |
| 7. Henman | 117,182 |
| 8. Courier | 115,810 |
| 9. Chang | 114,099 |
| 10. Bjorkman | 93,221 |
| 11. O'Brien | 75,010 |
| 12. Haarhuis | 70,329 |
| 13. Rios | 67,963 |
| 14. Kroslak | 61,911 |
| 15. Mantilla | 61,613 |
| 16. Costa | 58,613 |
| 17. Sanchez | 58,085 |
| 18. Enqvist | 56,210 |
| 19. Eltingh | 55,927 |
| CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF | 7007300701117100000 |

20. Tarango Bangabandhu

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Feb 4: Rangdhanu Cricket Club became champions defeating Bandhan Krira Angan by three wickets in the final of the fourth Bangabandhu Smriti cricket tournament played at local stadium here today, re-ports BSS.

15-a-side rugby to fit the territory's fast pace of life. Gemini News Service sets the scene for two action-packed contests — and the arrival of women. one million dollars in cash and and marketing requirements

> This year, women will be paced game, it has also drastimaking their debut on the field. Sixteen countries have been invited to participate in the inaugural Hong Kong Invitation Women's Rugby Sevens (15 to 16 March). The organisers hope the female players will prove as popular as their male counter-

trepreneurs have turned the event into a money-spinner. But the forthcoming political change in the territory, and parts and that their competition will become an integral the withdrawal from the Sevens part of the event. of two big sponsors, have fu-The women will be followed elled speculation over what will by the Rugby Tens Tournament. happen from now on.

services.

Tickets to the 110 million The 32 teams compete not just for a trophy but also for recogdollar 40,000-seat Hong Kong nition, because the 10-a-side stadium started selling months game has not acquired the folago. Tour operators from Auslowing of either traditional 15tralia, Britain, Canada and Sri strong rugby or the faster Sev-Lanka offer holiday packages which include confirmed seats The main event, the trien-

nial Rugby World Cup Sevens. Crowds enjoy not only the takes the field on 21-23 March. fast-paced rugby (each game be-It replaces, for this year only, tween seven-a-side teams lasts the customary Hong Kong tour-15 minutes, in contrast to the naments. The World Cup was standard 80-minute, 15-a-side inaugurated in England in international), but also a car-1993, and teams vying for vicnival atmosphere. Beer is contory must win through from sumed in large quantities and earlier rounds. Three qualifymany spectators bop around to ing tournaments - in Lisbon, the advertising jingles played Dubai and Uruguay - have over the public-address system. whittled the numbers down The event is a big social ocfrom 64 to 24.

casion, with Hong Kong's four One big question in the fans' estates - patrician Hongs, diminds is whether China will verse clergy, plebeians and the carry on with the Sevens after it ubiquitous media - represented takes back control of Hong in the grand stadium, together Kong in July. with overseas visitors. Pessimism has been in-There are South African

creased by the decision of faces painted in their country's Cathay Pacific and the Hong rainbow colours, raucous New Kong Bank to pull out. Their Zealanders with kiwi headwithdrawal was announced in dresses, and jet-lagged Britons November as part of a "marketdraped in the Union flag or the ing review red cross of St George. The stadium has 150 private

Peter Duncan, chairman of the Hong Kong Rugby Football boxes. Corporate Asia is said to Union, expressed disappointmeet there during the Sevens. ment with the decision. Neverreputedly forging alliances and theless, since the tournament attracts a full house and is tele-Last year, the event's 21st vised to many countries, he anniversary, corporate giants feels confident that replace-Cathay Pacific Airways and the

ments will be found. Just as Hong Kong has changed rugby to fit business

announced its bid last summer. But Kelly countered: "It was impossible for us to put in our bid or announce our intention before the end of EURO '96. "That passed off very very

opened its campaign too late. Germany's intention to bid

for the tournament they last

staged in 1974 was known as early as 1993, while the FA only

Allies buck up Brit bid Terry to go for

taken by the executive commit-

tee in support of Germany's

candidacy," said Kelly, who also

received the full support of

tions is no surprise, as it is pos-

sible that both Scotland and

Wales could be involved in stag-

ing games if the FA bid is suc-

that he would be sending a dele-

gation to London to "clarify" the

issue but Kelly said the FA were

in no mood to back down to

cause any good to start trading

insults with UEFA, but we have

made it clear that we are aston-

ished that they should send us

press ahead with our bid. We

know we have an excellent case

and it is one that has to be

he said. "I'm sure they will ask

us to step down and withdraw

our bid but our position is clear.

fax from UEFA headquarters

last week, we asked UEFA for

an explanation, but none of the

questions we asked have re-

received have been totally un-

clear, and with the support

we've had from many quarters

we have no qualms at all in

continuing to insist that our

of a joint Anglo-German bid

and also denied that the FA had

Stage set for Juventus

Last year. Ajax of Amsterdam

swept all three major club ti-

tles: the European Champions'

Cup. Toyota Cup and European

season's winners of the Cham-

match in Paris. Juventus ex-

pected few people to show up at

the 71,000-capacity Delle Alpi

in Turin. So they petitioned

UEFA to allow a move to La Fa-

vorita Stadium in Palermo,

where thousands of Sicilian

fans who rarely get to see the

team play could be counted on

to fill the 40,000 seats. PSG

raised no objection and UEFA's

HK's dashing displays at

Sanjiva Wijesinha writes from Melbourne

It is typical of Hong Kong that it has modified five-day Test cricket and traditional

sixes, and sevens

pions' Cup and Winners' Cup.

The Super Cup pits the prior

With the hefty lead from the

case is fully and properly

Kelly dismissed the notion

ceived anything near one.

"This is a bizarre situation,"

"As soon as we received the

"In fact the answers we have

"Now we are determined to

the fax they did," he added.

"I don't think it will do our

UEFA.

heard."

heard."

Super Cup.

Johansson said on Sunday

The support of the home na-

Prime Minister John Major.

well and we announced our intention to bid the day after the tournament finished.

"We have been talking about our bid for seven months often in the presence of senior UEFA officials but the idea that Germany had been given UEFA's full endorsement was not even remotely suggested.

"With EURO '96 we proved that we can stage a successful tournament, one that raised an awful lot of revenue and was played in trouble-free stadia with a great atmosphere." Kelly

Earlier Prime Minister Major told reporters outside Downing Street, that he would be giving the FA's bid his full backing.

"The last time we played Germany, we lost on penalties," said Major in a reference to the European Championship semifinal in June.

"It was an extremely good game. We were very unlucky to lose. Whether we will lose as far as 2006 is concerned is a long way away.

"We think that the United Kingdom could stage the World Cup with skill and style and the Football Association will have the government's full support in its bid to do so."

club competitions committee

Even a one-goal deficit

approved the switch last week.

would be a lot for PSG to over-

come, given Juve's outstanding

defensive play this season. With

Italian internationals Angelo

Peruzzi between the posts and

Ciro Ferrara at centre back, Ju-

ventus have allowed an Italian

League-low 13 goals through 19

that created the earlier rout in

Paris will be on the field for

Juve, with the exception of sus-

pended Frenchman Didier De-

schamps. His duties of midfield

containment will probably be

turning it into a popular, fast-

cally altered the slower game of

cricket to create rapid scoring

plans to stage the seventh an-

nual Hong Kong Sixes — world

cricket's only six-a-side tour-

unrecognisable from the 11-a-

side game that is traditionally

played over several days. Only

five may bowl, and they are re-

stricted to a single over each.

Batsmen must retire on reach-

Hong Kong's Sixes are de-

signed for a territory that is not

steeped in cricketing tradition

and where people do not have

the time to spend patiently

watching a five-day interna-

at the small Kowloon Cricket

Club ground that in 1996 the

contest had to be moved to the

big stadium to accommodate

the spectators. Since the venue

was originally designed for

rugby and soccer, the smaller

playing field has resulted in a

proliferation of high scoring.

adding to the crowd's enjoy-

granted official recognition by

the International Cricket Con-

ference. West Indies scored an

exciting eight-run victory over

India to take the crown and

30,000 dollars in prize money.

As for whether the contests will

continue next year, my predic-

tion is that they will. They only difference will be that there will

be no British colonial governor

to invite as chief guest, and that

enthusiastic teams from China

will be taking part. -Gemini

About the Author: Dr Sanjiva

Wijesinha is a Sri Lankan

medical specialist currently

working in Melbourne. He

writes on health matters for

Gemini News Service and is

also a sports enthusiast.

Last year, the Sixes were

The Sixes proved so popular

The rules make it virtually

In September, Hong Kong

and quick results.

nament.

ing 30 runs.

tional Test match.

filled by Alessio Tacchinardi.

Essentially the same lineup

matches.

Hardy defends Euro belt

SUNDERLAND, England, Feb 4: England's Billy Hardy retained his European featherweight title here in his home town on Monday beating Steve Robinson of Wales on points, reports AFP. Hardy, 32, overcame a fear-

ful battering from Robinson, a former World Boxing Organisation (WBO) champion, but his greater mobility and his overall supremacy won him a unanimous verdict from the three Hardy, who was beaten twice

by American featherweight great Orlando Canizales for the world title in 1990 and 1991. wants a crack at present WBO title-holder Prince Naseem Hamed — he is nominally the WBO's number one ranked challenger. Hamed, who beat Robinson

last year, defends his title against American Tom Johnson, the International Boxing Federation holder, on Satur-Hardy's win takes his record

to 36 wins, seven defeats and

Agassi misses Davis Cup tie

WHITE PLAINS. New York. Feb 4: Malivai Washington. ranked No. 24 in the world will replace injured Andre Agassi on the US team that will play at Brazil from Feb 7-9 in the first round of the Davis Cup, reports

US captain Tom Gullikson said Agassi was injured during a team practice last week at Key Biscayne, Florida.

"He sustained a minor injury that prevented him from being in top form," Gullikson said Monday. "He and I agreed that it would be better for him and the team if he stepped aside ..

Agassi was disappointed at having to withdraw. "I regret that I will not be

able to compete for the United States Davis Cup team", he said. "Unfortunately ... I will not be able to recover in time to compete at the level that will be required. Washington has a 2-2 Davis

Cup singles record. He last represented the United States in their 3-2 quarterfinal loss to

the Czech Republic last April. The other members of the

US team are Jim Courier, Alex O'Brien and Richey Reneberg.

WTA Tour's top twenty

NEW YORK, Feb 4 (Reuter): Top 20 women's tennis players as ranked by the Corel WTA

5028.0000 (Pts) . Graf 3995.5000 2. Hingis 3202.6871 Arantxa 3087.9412 . Novotna 5. Conchita 3010.6710

2931.8083 6. Seles 7. Huber 8. Davenport 9. Majoli 10. Spirlea 11. Habsudova 12. Coetzer 4. Fernandez 15. Pierce Wiesner

17. Paulus 18. Appelmans 19. Kimberly Po Likhovtseva

2487.0388 2243.5667 2126.2820 1906.7950 1775.7182 1731.2009 13. Schultz-McCarthy1560.8799 1542.5113 1530.8195 1481.5810 1370.2813 1310.6050 1260.0647 1197.2240

PARIS, Feb 4: Paris St Germain's central defender Alain Smriti cricket Roche will miss the remainder of the soccer season because of a badly injured knee, his club said today, reports Reuter. Roche, 29, will undergo surgery for torn ligaments on

-AFP/UNB photo

Livio: Roberto Di Matteo;

Demetrio Albertini; Dino Bag-

FORWARDS: Pierluigi Ca-

siraghi: Fabrizio Ravanelli;

Gianfranco Zela: Alessandro

Roche sidelined

Del Piero: Enrico Chiesa.

six months. PSG said.

at home to Cannes.

gio; Diego Fuser; Amedeo Car-

his right knee next week and will be out of action for five to Roche, who had only recently returned after a twomonth injury break, hurt the

Walter hopeful

GLASGOW, Feb 4: Key midfielder Paul Gascoigne is likely to be fit for England's crucial World Cup qualifying match against Italy on Wednesday February 12. Rangers manager Walter Smith said on Monday. reports AFP.

knee he had been nursing in a

fall during Saturday's 1-1 draw

The 29-year-old had his left ankle put in plaster last week after being injured in a collision playing for Rangers in a six-a-side tournament in Amsterdam, in which they finished third.

But Smith said he believes the former Newcastle, Tottenham and Lazio star will prove his fitness when England gather later this week to start their build-up.



Pace attack: Batsmen face a barrage of bowlers in the rapid-fire Sixes cricket that has evolved in Hong Kong