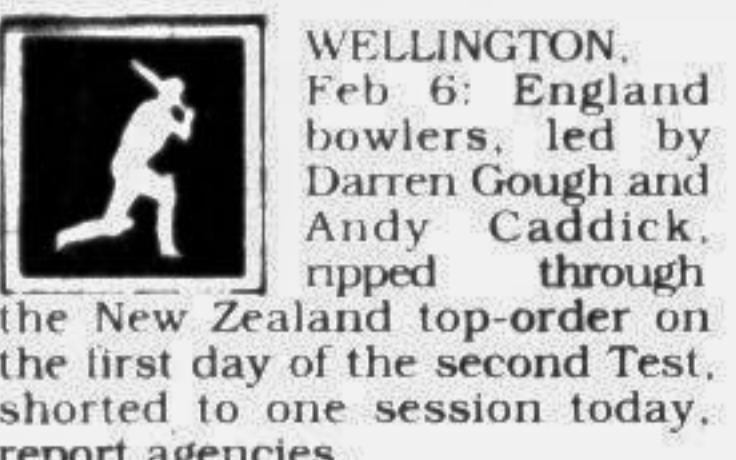


Zimbabwe warm up well

ALICE, South Africa, Feb 6: An undefeated 95 by Andy Flower guided Zimbabwe to a comfortable 83-run victory over an Eastern Cape Invitational XI on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Kiwis in dire straits



WELLINGTON, Feb 6: England bowlers, led by Darren Gough and Andy Caddick, ripped through the New Zealand top-order on the first day of the second Test, shorted to one session today, report agencies.

Gough pushed them deeper into the mire when Chris Cairns was caught by Nasser Hussain at third slip playing a loose shot. Caddick came back for his second spell at the other end where Germon gave Stewart his third catch.

This time the bowlers bowled wicket-to-wicket and allowed the plentiful movement of the seam to do the work. New Zealand, however, skipper Germon defended his decision to bat.

CADDICK... 3 for 19 and then lost five wickets for nine runs in a disastrous 43-ball spell.



GOUGH... 3 for 12 NEW ZEALAND: First innings Young c Stewart b Gough 8 Pooch c Cork b Caddick 6 Parore c Stewart b Gough 4 Fleming c and b Caddick 1 Astle not out 15 Cairns c Hussain b Gough 3 Germon c Stewart b Caddick 10 Patel not out 5 Extras: (nb-2; lb-2) 4 Total: (for six wickets) 56 Fall of wickets: 1-14; 2-18; 3-19; 4-19; 5-23; 6-48 Yet to bat: S Doull, G Allott, D Vettori

Secombe hits maiden ton

SYDNEY, Feb 6: Wicket-keeper Wade Secombe scored his maiden first-class century on Wednesday to save Queensland from a disastrous start in a Sheffield Shield match against Victoria, reports Reuters.

The match was played at the Ntselamazi Cricket Club on the outskirts of Alice, a black town in the former 'independent' homeland of the Ciskei.

Harvey finished with four wickets after tearing through the Queensland middle-order.

Victoria captain and all-rounder Tony Dodemaide earlier became the first Victoria player to take 300 wickets and score 3,000 runs in first-class cricket when he dismissed Queensland opener Matthew Mott and number three Jimmy Maher.

Spiritual opening awaits Nagano Winter Games!

TOKYO, Feb 6: The 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano will begin with the ringing of a Buddhist temple bell and a rite by suno-wo-sitara to keep out evil spirits.

Without them, the division is wide open. While that could be good competitively, it could be bad from a fan-interest and economic standpoint.

Another way would be that the intimidation factor that has played such a big role in Tyson's career would be practically nil.

It's more than mere bout

NEW YORK, Feb 6 (AP): Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield, Lennox Lewis and Riddick Bowe could drastically alter boxing's heavy-weight division by the end of 1997.

Oliver McCall of the United States (L) and Briton Lennox Lewis pose during a press conference in Las Vegas on Feb 5. The two are to fight for the vacant WBC heavyweight title on Feb 7.

Pankratov recognised

IMPERIA, Italy, Feb 6: Russia's Denis Pankratov was confirmed as having broken the 100m butterfly short-course world record here on Wednesday after earlier reports said he had been stripped of it because there was no doping control, reports AFP.

The Olympic champion broke the 200m butterfly world record in Gelsenkirchen on Saturday but was deprived of a record in the 100m when he was disqualified.

Valencia, Deportivo exit

MADRID, Feb 6: Valencia crashed out of the Spanish Cup on Wednesday as Second Division Las Palmas after squandering a 2-0 league from the first leg before finally losing on penalties, reports Reuters.

Deportivo started strongly and hit the bar twice in the opening minutes but they were unable to break down fierce Espanyol resistance in the second half.

Palermo, Sicily, Feb 6: Juventus, completing an academic task, won the European Super Cup on Wednesday when they beat Paris Saint Germain 3-1 in the second leg after routing the French side 6-1 in the first leg, reports Reuters.

Italian international Alessandro del Piero gave the European champions the lead with a well-taken goal in the 30th minute he made it 2-1 in the 70th, six minutes after Brazilian Rai had equalised from the penalty spot.

Sacchi gets Silvio's nod

ROME, Feb 6: AC Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi received the dreaded vote of confidence from club president Silvio Berlusconi here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Other than Chiesa's inclusion Maldini made three expected changes to strengthen his defence.

Chiesa signed from Sampdoria for 10 million pounds (15 million dollars) in the summer, has earned his recall after he spearheaded Parma's mid-season revival from relegation candidates to championship contenders.



Vladimir Jugovic (R) of Juventus fights for the ball with PSG's Jimmy Algerino during the final of the European Super Cup in Palermo, Italy on Feb 5.

Juventus' triple crown

goalkeeper's clumsy tackle on Valdes in the 64th minute may have changed a few minds.

Del Piero, scorer of a stunning second from a free-kick against the Northern Irish, is likely to start on the bench alongside Middlesbrough's Fabrizio Ravanelli.

S Korea to bid for 2006 Winter Games

MUJU, South Korea, Feb 6: South Korea's north Cholla province will bid to stage the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Muju and Chonju, its governor said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Chiesa on the high ropes

ROME, Feb 6: Parma striker Enrico Chiesa said on Tuesday he was overjoyed to have been recalled by Cesare Maldini to the Italian national squad for the World Cup qualifier with England at Wembley on February 12, reports AFP.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Grid of television and radio program listings for various channels including BBC, BTV, STAR PLUS, STAR SPORTS, STAR MOVIES, EL TV, ZEE TV, PTV, KHWAN, SONY ET, and DD 7.