

Kiwis 229 for five on Day 1

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 14: New Zealand were 229 for five at stumps on the first day of the third cricket Test against England at Lancaster Park here today, reports AFP.

Having been sent in to bat, the home side twice looked to be establishing a sound platform in their search for a series-equalling win.

Opener Blair Pocock and new cap Matt Horne added 64 for the second wicket and stand-in captain Stephen Fleming and Adam Parore put on the same stand for the fifth wicket.

However, both partnerships were broken just as they began to promise for the Kiwis.

Fleming hit 62, his 11th Test 50. Horne made 42 while Parore — dumped after the second Test loss in Wellington last Monday, then recalled this morning when skipper Lee Germon failed a fitness test on an injured groin muscle — was on 38 at stumps.

All-rounder Chris Cairns was with Parore at stumps on 10.

Off-spinner Robert Croft was the pick of the England attack, taking three for 49 off 24 overs while fast-medium Dominic Cork and Darren Gough took one wicket apiece.

Horne's day ended badly when an X-ray revealed he had fractured a bone in his left hand.

He won't field during England's innings but is expected to be able to bat in New Zealand's second innings.

SCOREBOARD

	O	M	R	W
Cork	15	3	67	1
Caddick	18	4	33	0
Gough	16	3	44	1
Croft	24	4	49	3
Tufnell	16	6	22	0
Parore	1	1	0	0
Total (For Five wkt)	229			
Fall of wickets: 1-14; 2-78; 3-106; 4-137; 5-201.				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Cork	15	3	67	1
Caddick	18	4	33	0
Gough	16	3	44	1
Croft	24	4	49	3
Tufnell	16	6	22	0
Parore	1	1	0	0

Marsh happy with Taylor

CAPE TOWN, Feb 14: Coach Geoff Marsh said Friday he would stick with captain Mark Taylor despite a prolonged bat-stumping by the man who once was one of Australia's premier run producers, reports AFP.

As one of the selectors for Australia's tour of South Africa, Marsh rejected any chance of dropping his captain.

"I don't think so, definitely not," he said after watching Taylor scratch out 18 runs in 58 minutes against a lighthearted attack from the man in the tour opener against an exhibition side.

"He's the captain and a very experienced player. Okay, he had a very tough series against the West Indies but he'll do a good job for us here," Marsh said.

Taylor has gone 15 innings without a half-century since his 96 in the first Test against Sri Lanka in Perth more than a year ago — setting the worst record by a captain in Australia's Test history.

He was just a bystander Thursday during a 90-run stand with Steve Waugh when the right-hander cut loose to take 72 runs off just 44 balls before retiring.

Earlier Taylor watched as Australia's young guns — Matthew Elliott and Matthew Hayden — plundered 124 runs off 164 balls as they contributed 91 and 60 runs respectively.

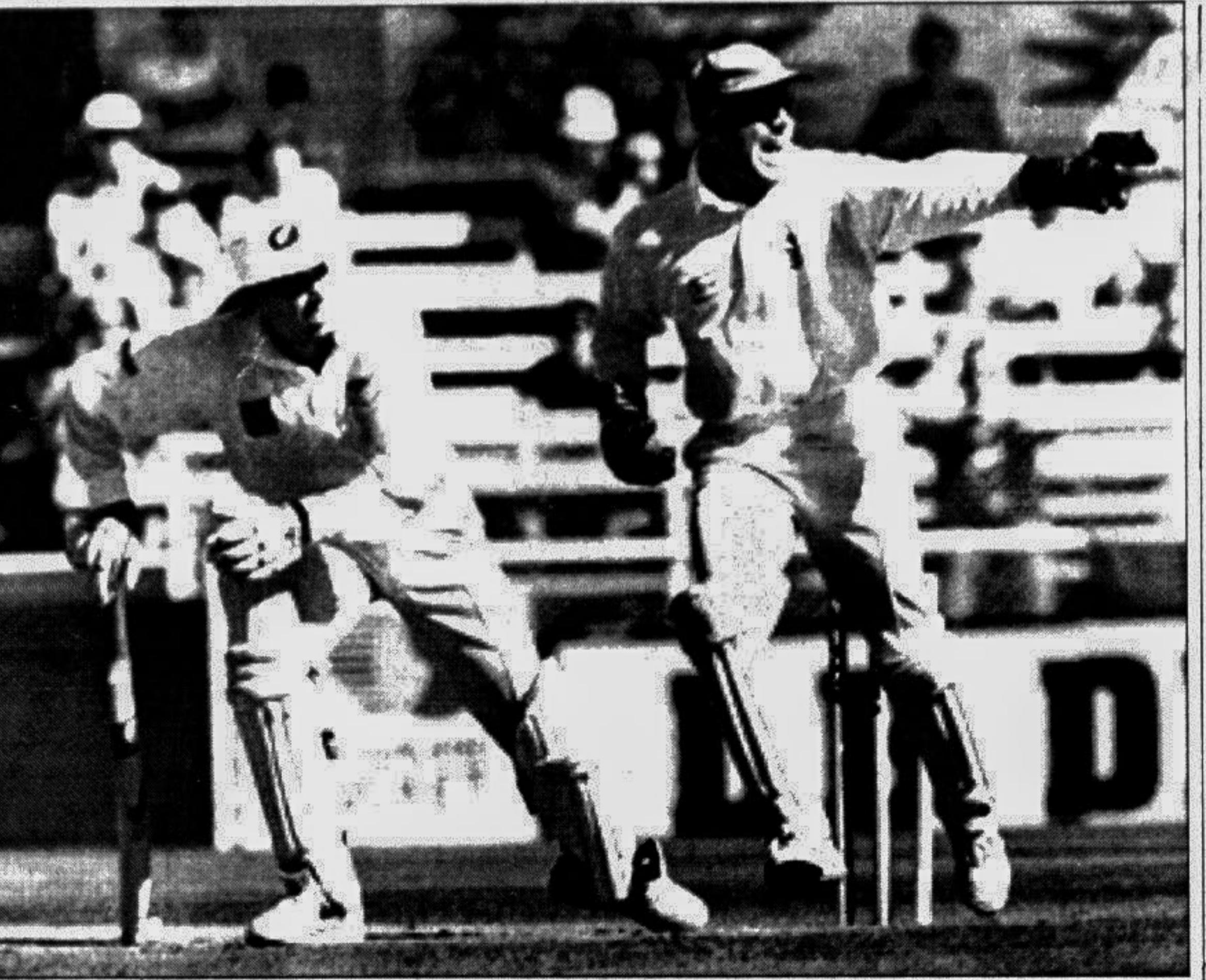
"He spent some time at the crease ... That's more important," Marsh said of Taylor.

Australia play their opening first-class match of the tour against Western Province in a three-day clash beginning Saturday at Newlands.

Marsh confirmed Taylor will open the batting after he had dropped himself down the order in the first match.

Taylor will up against local fast bowler Brett Schultz, on a comeback trial after two years with nagging leg injuries.

Schultz, a left-arm fast bowler, could claim a spot on South Africa's Test squad with a strong performance.



England wicketkeeper Alec Stewart appeals successfully for the stumping of New Zealand acting skipper Stephen Fleming off the bowling of Robert Croft during the third and final Test at Lancaster Park, Christchurch yesterday.

— Reuter/UNB photo

Round of 16 marks upsets



PARIS, Feb 14: Indonesia's Yau-uk Basuki and Nathalie Tauziat of France tore up the form book to score surprise victories and reach the quarterfinals of the 480,000 dollars WTA Paris Open here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Basuki upset big-serving seventh-seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy in a grueling marathon 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 and the 29-year-old Tauziat underlined her Fed Cup pretensions by beating sixth-seed Karina Habudova 6-4, 7-6.

The 26-year-old Basuki, who stands 5ft 4in had to stand up to a barrage of aces from her powerful 6ft 2in Dutch opponent and when she came off court she admitted that playing Schultz-McCarthy was "almost like a nightmare."

"She is so strong and one of the hardest players for me to beat," said the 37th-ranked Basuki, no stranger to taking unexpected scalps, as she proved in Sydney by defeating Australian Open finalist Mary Pierce.

"This is my best win in 1997 so far and I am feeling great," said Schultz-McCarthy, who beat the Indonesian player in straight sets in their only other meeting at Wimbledon in 1996, did what she could to help by hitting a series of double-faults.

Third-seed Anke Huber of Germany, winner of three tour-

naments in 1996, proved too powerful for the elegant Sabine Appelmans of Belgium and scored a 6-3, 6-2 victory in just over one hour.

Appelmans, quarterfinalist at this year's Australian Open where she upset Conchita Martinez of Spain and with two wins from three previous encounters, started badly and trailed 0-3 in the first.

Her best chance to get back into the match came at the start of the second-set when she came close several times to breaking Huber's serve, but the 22-year-old German player could always call on extra power to make the difference in the baseline rallies.

Huber now plays fifth-seed Irina Spirela of Romania who defeated last weekend's Linz champion Chanda Rubin 6-3, 6-4.

France's Davis Cup and Fed Cup captain Yannick Noah held a meeting at the Courteau Stadium with seven of France's top players and federation officials Jean-Claude Massias and Francoise Durr.

He said the team to play Japan in the first-round next month, which will be without Julie Halard-Decugis who is out of action with a knee injury, would be announced to the players of Friday and the team made public 24 hours later.

UEFA assures Germans?



BARSINGHAUSEN, N. Germany, Feb 14: Leading UEFA official Gerhard Aigner made it clear to Germany on Thursday that it was still backing the country's candidacy for the 2006 World Cup despite the recent rumpus over a rival bid from England, reports Reuter.

"We have not climbed down on this," said general secretary Aigner, explaining that UEFA's executive committee wanted to stand by its principle of having just one candidate from Europe.

"We have supported the DFB (German Federation) and we continue to support it."

Germany launched their bid in 1993 and got the full backing of UEFA, which is keen to avoid the kind of battle that South Korea and Japan fought for the 2002 tournament. The event was eventually awarded to both countries.

But England's recent entry into the race has complicated matters. After a meeting in London last week, the governing body said it would meet offi-

Press Club badminton

The Jatiya Press Club badminton tournament '97 begins at the club premises today, reports UNB.

President of the club Reazuddin Ahmed will open the tournament at 5 pm.

About 20 club members will participate in different events of the tournament.

cials from both England and Germany in April before deciding to which country it would give its complete support.

During a discussion with German reporters Aigner was keen to stress that Europe's governing body had not made a U-turn on its support of the DFB despite the fact it had not made a final decision.

UEFA is keen to stick to its idea of supporting just one country from the continent although it knows that other European countries can enter the race if they so wish.

The ultimate decision about who will be awarded the finals is made by world-governing body FIFA.

UEFA's executive committee will meet both German and English football bodies on April 17 in Geneva to try to find a solution to the row. The English authorities were happy that UEFA was keen to support just one country, Aigner said.

The 5,198 people accused include more than 2,000 already in detention in Ethiopian jails. Some have been held for nearly 5 1/2 years without charge.

The charges cover the killing, torture and forced disappearance of 14,200 people during the rule of Col Mengistu Haile Mariam from 1974 to 1978.

"Extra-judicial executions, torture and enforced disappearance of innocent people were rampant throughout the country during the era of the 'Dergue' or Mengistu's ruling council," Ghirmai said.

The victims were political opponents of Mengistu's regime and unarmed civilians, he said.

1:00 Over The Edge VJ Sophia 2:00 Music Update Tokyo 2:30 The Ride 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 V Spot

2:00 Frame by Frame 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Frame by Frame 8:30 Asian Top 20 VJ Troy 10:30 Big Bang Weekend VJ Alessandra 12:30 Billboard US Countdown 2:30 The Ride 3:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 4:30 House Of Noise VJ Luke 6:00pm Classic Rock 7:00 Top of the Pops 8:00 BPL Oye! 9:00 The Ticket 9:30 Fashion Police 10:00 Soul Curry 10:30 News 7:20 This Week 08:00 BBC World News 08:30 Time Out Film 9:00 BBC World Headlines 09:05 World Focus Assignment 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out

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