



The members of Bangladesh cricket team seen waiting at the Dhaka Stadium before proceeding to BKSP for their residential camp yesterday afternoon.

— Star photo

India 168 against Zimbabwe

BULAWAYO, Feb 15: Zimbabwe kept India's runs down and were well placed to beat them on Saturday in the first of two one-day internationals, reports AP.

India are on the way home after a gruelling tour of South Africa and their jaded condition showed as home team bowlers pegged them to score of 168 all out in 43.5 overs.

The damage was mainly inflicted by strike bowler Heath Streak, who destroyed the middle and lower order and posted figures of five wickets for 32.

The root of the visitors' problem in a match reduced to 44 overs a side because of a late start after heavy overnight rain was the failure of skipper Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin to get among the runs.

The two only managed 13 and 24 respectively.

On the brink of disaster at 95 for six, a gritty stand of 63 by Rabinra Singh and Anil Kumble gave them a measure of respectability.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the first one-day international between Zimbabwe and India at Queens Sports Club on Saturday:

	INDIA	ZIMBABWE	
V Rathore c Campbell b Whittall	34		
S Tendulkar c G Flower b Brandes	13		
S Ganguly run out	2		
M Azharuddin c A Flower		24	
b Brandes		0	
A Jadeja c A Flower b Streak	0		
R Singh c A Flower b Streak	45		
N Mongia c Waller b Evans	4		
A Kumble c Campbell b Streak	21		
S Joshi lbw b Streak	0		
D Ganesh c b Streak	1		
V Prasad not out	0		
Extras: (b-6, lb-2, w-11, nb-2)	21		
Total: (all out, 43.5 overs)	168		
Fall of wickets: 1-23; 2-33; 3-68; 4-72; 5-84; 6-95; 7-159; 8-159; 9-168.			
Bowling:	O M R W		
Brandes	8	1	34
Rennie	9	2	38
Streak	8.5	0	32
Whittall	8	0	29
Evans	8	1	20
Strang	2	0	7
(Incomplete)			0

USOC not amused

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania, Feb 15: International Olympic Committee unhappiness with Atlanta's staging of the 1996 Games has US officials doubting they should bother making a bid for the 2008 Olympics, reports AFP.

The US Olympic Committee meets here this weekend after deflating the hopes of more than 40 cities that attended an informational session.

USOC officials said China, South Africa and South America are favoured to be voted hosts of the 2008 and 2012 Games. Africa and South America have never hosted the Games. Sydney beat out a Beijing bid for the 2000 Games.

Cities would have to spend as much as 10 million dollars just to be nominated as a US candidate, then spend up to 30 million dollars more for a presentation to the IOC.

An eye-opener for US contenders was the revelation that the IOC will require future host cities to sign agreements ensuring local taxpayers will cover any revenue shortfalls.

That would mean obtaining approval from voters, a complicated political process assured of putting any bid at risk.

USOC president William Hyb does not expect a decision this weekend, but should know by May whether or not the United States will field a candidate for 2008 or wait until 2012.

A US site, Salt Lake City, already has the rights for the 2002 Winter Olympics, so any future bid for those Games will be even further into the 21st century.

Most of the US candidates were sent off to seek lesser events, such as the 2007 Pan American Games. San Antonio and Miami, two US markets with large Hispanic populations, are front-runners to host the Panams, which were last in the United States in 1987 at Indianapolis.

The USOC plans to spend eight million dollars to help finance Olympic sports in danger

Kiwis assume control



CHRISTCHURCH, Feb 15: New Zealand were on top at stumps on the second day of the third cricket Test between New Zealand and England at Lancaster Park today, reports Reuter.

The tourists were 145 for five at stumps, still trailing the home side by 201 runs with three days to play.

Captain Mike Atherton had spent 204 minutes at the crease to be 66 not out, while Dominic Cork was on 16, after 75 minutes.

The pair had stopped a mid-order tumble with an unbroken 41-run stand.

The Kiwis, 346 in their first innings, need to win the Test to level the three-match rubber.

Lively left-arm Geoff Allott picked up three wickets as the English batsmen played a series of loose strokes, finishing the day with three for 49.

New Zealand's innings today, resuming at 229 for five, revolved around recalled wicketkeeper Adam Parore and all-rounder Chris Cairns, who added 82 in 103 minutes for the sixth wicket.

Parore reached 59 while Cairns made 57, his second half-century in five innings during the series.

Tallenders Daniel Vettori and Heath Davis added a breezy 27 in 33 minutes for the ninth wicket before off spinner Robert Croft finished the innings by taking his fifth wicket.

He finished with five for 95 in 39.1 overs, his best Test figures.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the third and final cricket Test between New Zealand and England at Lancaster Park on Saturday:

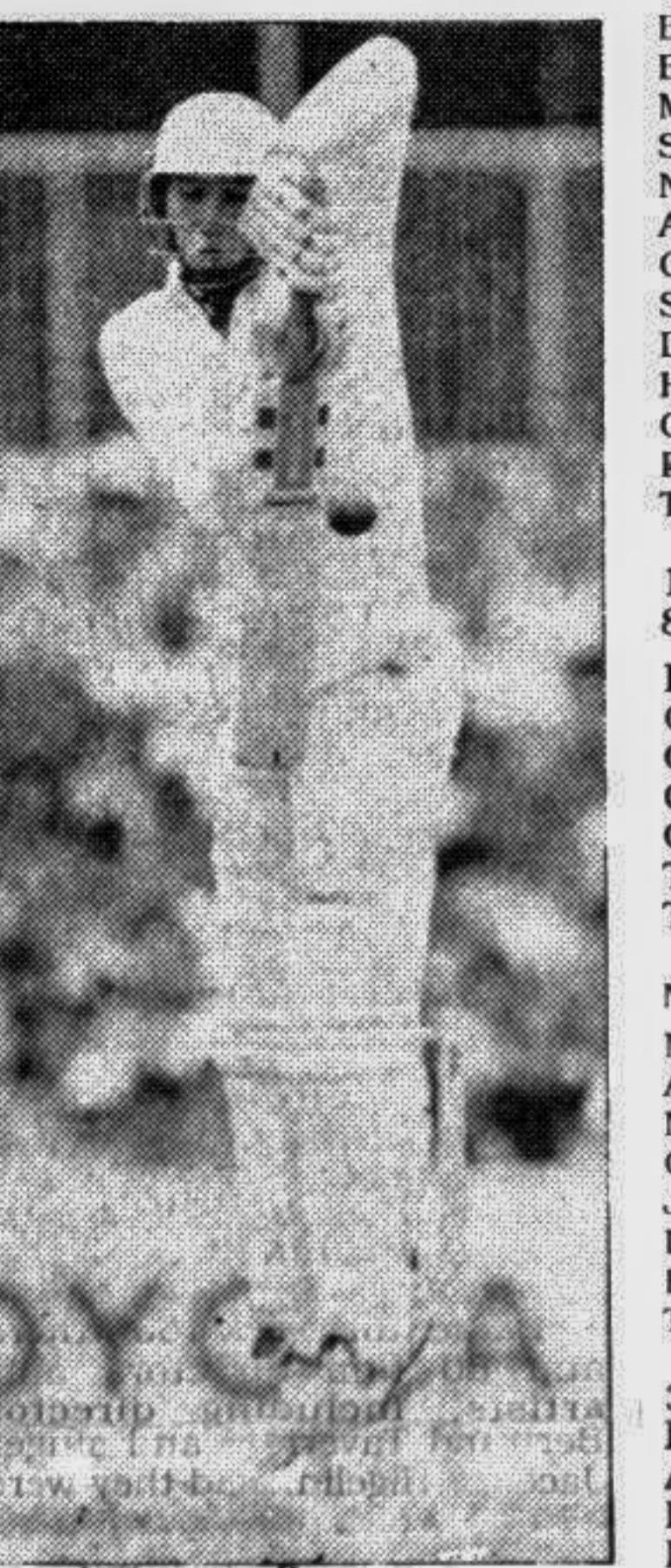
NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 229 for five wickets)

B. Young c Cork	11
B. Pocock c Atherton b Croft	22
M. Horne c Thorpe b Gough	42
S. Fleming c Stewart b Croft	62
N. Astle c Hussain b Croft	15
A. Parore c Hussain b Croft	59
C. Cairns c Stewart b Caddick	57
D. Doull run out	1
D. Vettori run out	25
H. Davis c Hussain b Croft	8
G. Allott not out	8
Extras: (b-1, lb-16, nb-19)	36
Total:	346
Fall of wickets: 1-14; 2-78; 3-106; 4-137; 5-201; 6-283; 7-288; 8-310; 9-337.	

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Cork	20	3	78	1
Caddick	32	8	64	1
Gough	21	3	70	1
Croft	39.1	5	95	5
Tufnell	16	6	22	0
Thorpe	1	1	0	0

ENGLAND: First innings	O	M	R	W
N. Knight c Fleming b Allott	14			
M. Atherton not out	66			
A. Stewart c sub (Harris) b Allott	15			
N. Hussain c Parore b Cairns	12			
G. Thorpe c Astle	18			
J. Crawley c Parore b Allott	1			
D. Cork not out	16			
Extras: (b-3)	3			
Total: (for five wickets)	145			
Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-40; 3-370; 4-103; 5-104				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Allott	12	3	49	3
Doull	10	0	27	0
Davis	12	0	36	0
Vettori	4	1	7	0
Cairns	8	5	12	1
Astle	3	0	11	1

ATHERTON ... 66 no.



Biggies join the choir



ATLANTA, Feb 15: Reebok, Nike and several other sporting goods giants announced a campaign Friday to stop the exploitation of Pakistani children who stitch together soccer balls for mere pennies a day, reports AP.

A top executive, however, cautioned that the project won't be truly effective until organisations that govern the sport outlaw all balls produced by children under the age of 14.

"Unless everyone is playing with a ball that's free of child labour, this thing is a farce," Reebok chairman Paul Fireman said.

The World Federation of the Sports Goods Industry and the American-based Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association pledged that major ball-makers will buy soccer balls produced in Pakistan only if they were not made by children.

The programme, announced at the annual "Super Show" sporting goods trade convention, also aims to provide educational services to youngsters who are thrown out of work.

"We want to address the underlying social conditions that cause child labour," Riddle said.

David Husselbee, director of Save the Children's Pakistan office, said that the soccer-ball industry is only a small part of the child labour issue worldwide, and is hardly one of the

most dangerous lines of work.

But, since most of the balls are stitched together in one area, this is an easier situation to tackle.

"Child labour is a colossal problem in Pakistan, and this is a good way to get involved," Husselbee said. "We want to make sure that all homes and workshops that make soccer balls are registered, so we can ensure that children are not doing the work."

North American and European soccer enthusiasts have been concerned since 1995 over reports that soccer balls were made by children. Last year, the US government began a campaign to discourage Americans from buying child-made balls, and FIFA, the international governing body for soccer, said it would not endorse soccer balls made by children.

Fireman challenged FIFA to go a step further and sanction for competition only those balls manufactured by companies in the programme.

"They're asking a lot of the manufacturers who make the balls," Fireman said. "There's a lot of complications when it comes to replacing labour and so forth, but that's fine. We're willing to do that."

"But for them, there really no problem. All they have to do is certify their balls were not made by children."

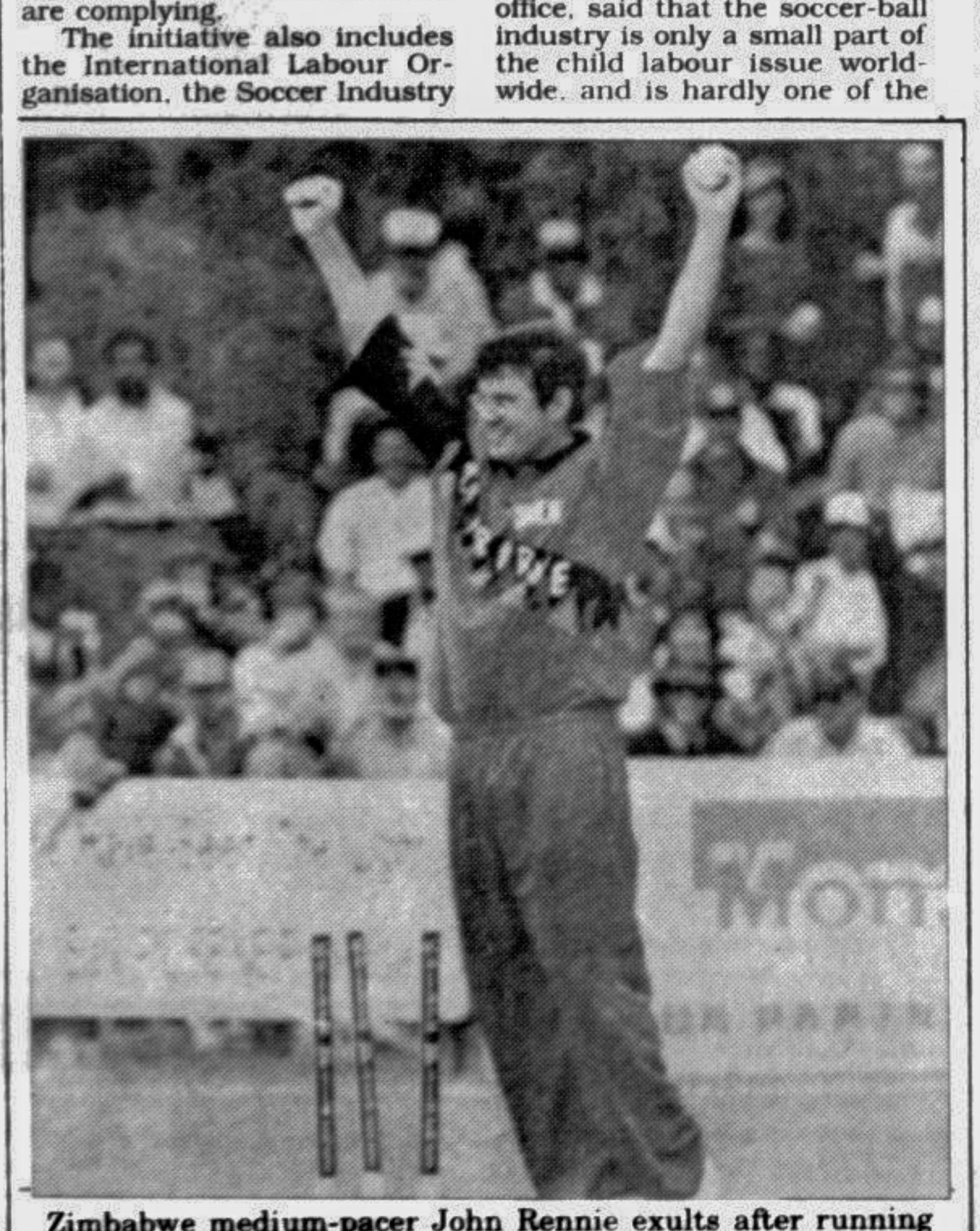
FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper said Fireman was simplifying the problem facing the world's most popular sport. Also, Cooper said, the vast majority of soccer balls are produced by companies that belong to the programme.

"You have to be realistic," he said. "To have 100 per cent total assurance that a ball is not being made by child labour is logically impossible. We can't possibly control every last ball manufacturer."

In Washington, a congressman who has been active in child labour issues praised the agreement but called on manufacturers to go one step further and print a "No Child Labour" logo right on the balls.

"There is one more simple step that companies should take to complete the effort," said Rep George Miller, Democrat of California. "If consumers can know that the ball is made of genuine leather, made in Pakistan, or made by hand, they should also be able to know that it was made without child labour."

Reebok has launched its own programme to ensure that none of its sporting goods products are made by children and print such a label on its products.



Zimbabwe medium-pacer John Rennie exults after running out Saurav Ganguly during a one-day international against India in Bulawayo yesterday. — Reuter/UNB photo

Heryanto's sweet revenge

NEW DELHI, Feb 15: World badminton champion Heryanto Arbi avenged his loss to Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen in the Olympic semifinals with a stunning power display in the Indian Open today, reports AFP.

Arbi showed no signs of the calf injury which kept him out of the circuit since the Atlanta Games by racing to a 15-12, 12-15, 15-21 win over the error-prone Olympic champion.

Arbi's opponent in Sunday's final of the 125,000-dollar event will be Indian national champion Gopi Chand, who defeated Kim Hyong-Jeon of South Korea 15-8, 15-9 in the other semifinal.

Indonesia stayed in line for a double when top-seed Cindana Hartono set up the women's singles final against Lee Soon Deuk of South Korea.

Cindana toyed with Korean Choi Ma Rae 11-6, 11-4 while Lee Soon upset second seed Joanne Muggeridge of England 11-3, 11-8.

What was expected to be the tournament's showpiece turned into an anti-climax as Arbi took advantage of Hoyer-Larsen's erratic play to smash his way to an easy win.

Arbi shut out the first game in nine minutes, and even though H