

Mike makes a milestone

CHRISTCHURCH, Feb 16: England captain Mike Atherton on Sunday became the seventh English player to bat through a completed innings in Test cricket, reports Reuter.

Atherton made 94 not out as England were bowled out for 228 in their first innings of the third Test against New Zealand at Lancaster Park.

It was the first time Atherton had completed the feat. It is the 34th occasion an opening batsman has gone through a Test innings.

The last time an English player did it was when Alec Stewart scored 69 not out of his team's 175 against Pakistan at Lord's in 1992.

The highest score by an opener bat through an innings was New Zealander Gleen Turner's 223 not out against the West Indies in Jamaica in 1972.

Turner is also the youngest player to achieve the feat. He was 22 years 63 days when he scored 43 not out of 131 against England in 1969.

West Indian Desmond Haynes has batted through a Test innings three times, while Turner, Englishman Sir Leonard Hutton and Australians Bill Woodfull and Bill Lawry completed the feat twice each.

The other English players to bat through a complete Test innings are: Bobby Abel (against Australia, Sydney 1891-92), Sir Pelham Warner (against South Africa, Johannesburg 1898-90), Sir Leonard Hutton (against the West Indies, the Oval 1950, and against Australia, Adelaide 1950-51), Geoff Boycott (against Australia, Perth 1979-80) and Graham Gooch (against the West Indies, Leeds 1991).

Rusedski routs Agassi

SAN JOSE, California, Feb 16: With his trademark monsoon serve, Greg Rusedski defeated Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-4 in the Sybase Open Saturday night to advance to the final against defending champion Pete Sampras, reports AP.

Sampras, ranked No. 1 in the world, defeated Todd Martin 6-2, 6-3 earlier in the day to move to Sunday's final at the San Jose Arena.

Rusedski, No. 39 in the world and seeded seventh, had 14 aces, including one which was clocked at 139 mph (223.7 kph). Rusedski hit the fastest serve of all time, 139.8 mph (225 kph), in Beijing last October on match point against Jean-Philippe Fleurant.

The serve simply overpowered the third-seeded Agassi, who returned the British left-hander's 112 mph (180.2 kph) serve into the net at match point. Agassi was unable to serve an ace during the 73-minute match.

The victory was Rusedski's first in four career meetings against the former world number one. He denied Agassi a third straight trip to finals of this event.

The earlier match was much the same, with Sampras dominating Martin.

Martin, ranked No. 14 and seeded fourth, had not played in a tournament since November because of tendinitis in his right knee. With his knee taped, he had trouble with his first serves during the 59-minute match, and double faulted three times.

The top-seeded Sampras, who had eight aces, capped the victory with an overhand smash on capture match point. It was his 11th straight victory this year and 14th straight overall.

"Usually when I play Todd, it comes down to a key point here and there," Sampras said. "But this week, with Todd coming off that long layoff, we wasn't as sharp as he usually is."

One of Sampras' aces beamed linesman Kenn Ordene, who was not hurt.

Martin fell behind 3-2 in the first set, and his momentum began to slip away. In the next game, he missed Sampras' low cross-court backhand return, then double faulted.

"I haven't had a ball come at me like that in a couple of months," Martin said. "Pete asserts himself right off the bat and lets you know you're going to be doing a lot of responding and not a lot of dictating, and that's not how I play best."

Neither player showed much emotion during the first set, but Martin became frustrated later in the match, grimacing and shaking his head. Down 3-1 in the second set, Martin threw down his racket after a bad service return.

The crowd, however, was clearly on the underdog's side, cheering loudly in the second set after Martin won each of his three games.

For the final two games of the match, Martin's right elbow was wrapped. He said he hurt it during last year's US Open, and it still sometimes bothers him.

Press Club badminton

Shamim Ahmed and Bektar Rana moved into the doubles final of the Jatiya Press Club badminton tournament beating Masud Ahmed Rumi and Lutfur Rahman Binu 15-4, 18-17 at the club court yesterday, reports BSS.

Kamaluddin Sabuj and Belayet Hossain Belal reached the last four outplaying Younis Pasha and Khan Mohammad Saleh 15-0, 15-2.

Sabuj and Belal will take on B D Mukherjee and Shawkat Mahmud in the other semi-final.

In the singles, B D Mukherjee defeated Kamaluddin Sabuj 15-2, 15-3 to reach the final four.

England wrest initiative



CHRISTCHURCH, Feb 16: New Zealand and were reeling at 95 for six wickets in their second innings at stumps on the third day of the third cricket Test against England at Lancaster Park today, reports Reuter.

After establishing a 118-run first-innings lead, New Zealand's batsmen failed to take advantage and wickets fell regularly through the final session.

At stumps, New Zealand led by 213 runs with two days to play.

Opening batsman Bryan Young caused a sensation in the final session by refusing to leave the wicket after being given out caught at silly mid off by Nick Knight from left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell.

Australian umpire Darrell Hair gave Young out, but after Young stood his ground and gestured the ball hadn't carried to Knight, Hair consulted fellow official Steve Dunne of New Zealand.

They confirmed the dismissal, although television replays suggested Knight had taken the catch on the bounce.

Young's 49 in 165 minutes off 135 balls was the only innings of substance as New Zealand's batsmen lost their way.

At stumps, Chris Cairns was on five and Matt Horne, who

broke a bone in his left hand during the first innings, was on four.

Spinners Tufnell and Robert Croft had done the damage, with two for 24 off 18 overs and two for 25 from 20 overs respectively.

Earlier England captain Mike Atherton became only the seventh English batsman to bat through a complete Test innings when he finished 94 not out against the West Indies in 1972.

Atherton batted for 345 minutes, faced 235 balls and hit 10 fours before running out of partners when Andrew Caddick and Tufnell departed in quick succession after the lunch break.

Atherton began the day on 66 but the only solid support he received came from Croft, who made 31 in a 53-run stand for the seventh wicket.

Left-arm Geoff Allott finished with four for 74 off 18 overs, medium pacer Nathan Astle took two for 26 with the other four bowlers taking one wicket apiece.

SCOREBOARD

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

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 346 (S Fleming 62, A Parore 59; R Croft 5-95).

ENGLAND: First innings

10 wickets: 1-20; 2-40; 3-70; 4-103; 5-104; 6-145; 7-198; 8-199; 9-210; 10-228.

Bowling:

O M R W

Allott 18 3 74 4

Doull 17 4 3 49 1

Davis 18 2 50 1

Vettori 12 4 13 1

Cairns 8 5 12 1

Astle 11 2 26 2

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

Pocock b Cork 0

Young c Knight b Tufnell 49

Parore c Stewart b Gough 8

Fleming c Knight b Tufnell 11

Astle c Hussain b Croft 5

Cairns not out 5

Doull c Knight b Croft 5

Horne not out 4

Extras: (lb-5, nb-3) 8

Total: (for 8 wkt) 95

Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-40; 3-70; 4-103; 5-104; 6-145; 7-198; 8-199; 9-210; 10-228.

Bowling:

O M R W

Cork 6 2 5 1

Caddick 7 1 17 0

Croft 20 10 25 2

Gough 5 2 19 1

Tufnell 18 8 24 2

Pele's tips for Ronaldo

SAN JOSE, Feb 16: Former Brazilian star Pele has warned compatriot and FIFA player-of-the-year Ronaldo not to let fame go to his head or turn to drugs, citing Argentine wizard Diego Maradona as an example to be avoided, reports AFP.

Warning the 20-year-old striker of the dangers of taking drugs as a way of coping with fans' adulation, Pele, who shot to fame at 17 when he helped Brazil win the 1958 World Cup, said drugs had "ruined the lives of many a fine sportsman."

"Maradona is an excellent player, but he ruined himself with drugs," Pele, 56, warned.

"Let's hope that Ronaldo does not ever turn to drugs and is luckier than Maradona has been," Pele, now Brazilian sports minister, said on a visit to San Jose at the invitation of the Costa Rican government.

Former Argentine captain

Maradona has admitted being a cocaine addict and last year underwent psychiatric treatment in Spain in an attempt to kick the habit. His drugs problems also led to two lengthy bans from football.

Pele, who described Ronaldo as "a great player," has consistently turned down offers to advertise alcohol and tobacco on the grounds that to do so would set a bad example to budding sportsmen and women.

Ronaldo, who has made a storming start to his Barcelona career, was last month voted world player-of-the-year by the game's world governing body FIGC, seeing off claims for the title from AC Milan's George Weah and Newcastle United's Alan Shearer.

King's Cup soccer Sweden's

BANGKOK, Feb 16 (Reuters):

Results of matches in four-nation King's Cup soccer tournament at Bangkok's national stadium on Sunday:

Final

Sweden 3, Thailand 1 (halftime 0-0).

Scorers:

Sweden: Gery Sundgren 68, Joakim Persson 82, Robert Steiner 90.

Thailand: Sasom Pobpraset 88.

Third place play-off

Japan 2, Romania 0-0.

Scorers: Hisashi Kurosaki 65, Masayuki Okano 86.

Juergen powers Bayern to top

BONN, Feb 16: Bayern Munich veteran and German captain Juergen Klinsmann hammered a double at the Olympic Stadium on Saturday to put Bayern Munich back on top of the Bundesliga with a 3-0 win against Sankt Pauli, reports AFP.

Bayern had been displaced by Dortmund on Friday night after the reigning champions kicked off the second half of the season with an impressive 3-1 home triumph over Bayer Leverkusen.

Former Tottenham striker Klinsmann, 32, scored in the 28th and 75th minutes as he answered his critics who had slammed his pre-winter break form.

Klinsmann, rumoured to be on the point of returning to the Premiership in England before the two-month winter break, has finally healed his rift with teammate Lothar Matthaeus. And he showed he was back to his best form by taking his season goal tally to seven.

German international centre half Thomas Helmer hit Bayern's other goal as the Bavarians raced two points clear.

Andreas Moller, Germany's midfield dynamo, secured Dortmund's win Friday with a brace against Leverkusen, who had taken the lead early on through Brazilian striker Sergio. Swiss marksman Stephane Chapuisat was also on target for the hosts, who are bidding for their third straight league title.

But his side had to settle for the draw after Sergei Babarez scored a last gasp equaliser for the visitors.

Butterfield, Keown end goalless draw

PARIS, Feb 16: Ruthless Martina Hingis showed

Hingis, Huber showdown



ing start against the second-seeded Novotna and never looked back.

Her 28-year-old opponent

had won six of eight previous

encounters against the third-seeded German player and was

fresh from an excellent run at the WTA event in Linz last weekend where she reached the

semifinals.

But on Saturday Novotna was

rocked back on her heels —

the 22-year-old Huber kept her

opponent permanently off balance with a cocktail of blistering returns, inch-perfect lobs

and dead drop shots.

Novotna won only four

points in the first four games,

and then trailed 0-5 in the first

set and 1-4 in the second.

The Czech player, who had demolished French hope Mary Pierce in straight sets 24 hours earlier and who finished last season so

spectacularly with three consecutive tournament victories,

became increasingly frustrated

and earned one warning for ball abuse before finally surrendering.

Hingis later made sure of a

busy Sunday when she reached

the doubles final. She teamed

up with Novotna to beat Sabine