

Sport

One change in NZ squad

WELLINGTON, Apr 3: Craig McMillan, a 20-year-old right-handed batsman, was Thursday named as the only newcomer in a 14-man New Zealand cricket squad to play in the Independence Cup tournament in India next month, reports AP.

Former New Zealand youth team captain McMillan scored 809 runs at an average of 73 for the Canterbury provincial team this season.

"I'm just absolutely thrilled to be called-up," he said. "I have been a great season and this just tops it all for me."

The New Zealand squad is otherwise unchanged from that which beat Sri Lanka in the final match of a limited-over series late last month.

Fast bowler Geoff Allott was omitted because of a back-injury while Heath Davis is due to undergo arthroscopic surgery on a knee injury before the weekend, but is expected to recover in time for the tour.

"All-rounder Chris Cairns has postponed ankle surgery until after the tournament, while Dipak Patel, who missed the last one-day against Sri Lanka, now is fully fit, New Zealand Cricket said in a statement.

The tournament also will feature hosts India, Pakistan and World Cup Champions Sri Lanka.

SQUAD
Stephen Fleming (Captain), Nathan Astle, Chris Cairns, Heath Davis, Simon Doull, Chris Harris, Matt Horne, Gavin Larsen, Craig McMillan, Dipak Patel, Adam Parore, Andrew Penn, Bryan Young, Daniel Vettori.

France usurp victory

PARIS, Apr 3: France beat 1994 World Cup semifinalists Sweden 1-0 here in their friendly on Wednesday but the 1998 World Cup hosts won by a Youri Djorkaeff penalty that shouldn't have been awarded, reports AFP.

The controversial incident happened when Djorkaeff fell after he had jumped over Sweden's veteran keeper Thomas Ravelli, making his 137th appearance just 10 short of the world record held by Saudi Arabian Majed Abdullah, although no contact was made and the Inter Milan player fell over his own feet.

Djorkaeff got to his feet and was preparing to cross when he realised that the Belgian referee Marc Strauch had blown for a penalty. Though he didn't appeal to the referee that it wasn't a penalty as Liverpool's Robbie Fowler had done in the Premiership match with Arsenal 10 days ago, the 29-year-old Djorkaeff admitted later that it wasn't a penalty.

"It wasn't a penalty. I was trying to avoid Ravelli and I lost my balance. I told Ravelli it wasn't a penalty and he agreed with me," Djorkaeff said.

Philippoussis to play in Davis Cup

ADELAIDE, Apr 3: Pat Rafter, who sparked Australia's 4-1 first-round upset of defending Davis Cup champion France, will again play the opening match against the Czech Republic on Friday at Memorial Drive, reports AP.

Rafter, who scored a five-set victory over Cedric Pioline at Sydney's White City in February, was Thursday drawn to play Martin Damm in the first singles of the World Group quarterfinal.

Mark Philippoussis, Australia's highest-ranked singles player, will face Jiri Novak in the second singles match.

Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, the top-ranked doubles combination in the world, meet Czech pair David Rikl and Pavel Vizek in Saturday's doubles with the reverse singles slated for Sunday.

Australia, which has won the Davis Cup 26 times, is fielding its strongest combination on its favorite grass court surface, but the Czech Republic has been hit by the retirement from Davis Cup play of stalwart Petr Korda and the unavailability of Bohdan Ulihrach, Daniel Vacek and Slava Dosedel.

Philippoussis will be playing a Davis Cup match in his homeland for the first time, while Woodforde will take a lesser role after starting in both singles and doubles in Australia's first-round win over France.

S Africa ride on Rhodes



CAPE TOWN, Apr 3: Spectacular late order hitting marshalled by Jonty Rhodes boosted South Africa to a comfortable 46-run win over Australia in their third one-day international at Newlands on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

South Africa took a 2-1 lead in the seven-match series after Rhodes' undefeated 83 from only 77 balls carried them to 245 for eight after his side had been deep in trouble at 106 for five.

In reply, Australia struggled to 199 all out after being reduced to 25 for four as three wickets fell in four balls of the eighth over. They were further hampered by the absence of opener Mark Waugh who injured right hand in attempting a slip catch and was unable to bat.

Even so Australia might have stood a chance but for South Africa's explosive finish to their innings.

Rhodes shared a 70-run sixth wicket partnership with Natal teammate Derek Crookes to get the recovery back on the road before they were parted at 176 for six.

But a 40-run partnership in five overs with Shaun Pollock (21 in 15 balls) and 23 runs in 10 balls with Rudi Bryson (17 not out in seven balls) lifted South Africa to undreamed of heights.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne came in for some heavy punishment, being hit for three sixes as his last three overs went for 40 runs. He ended with figures of two for 64 in 10 overs.

Australia lost Greg Blewett in the fifth over but the game effectively ended in the eighth. Stuart Law was caught be-

hind off paceman Bryson for four. Steve Waugh had his off stump uprooted for a first ball duck, and two balls later Michael di Venuto was run out for 13 by a direct hit on one stump from Jacques Kallis.

A 69-run partnership between Michael Bevan (82) and Ian Healy, standing in as skipper for the resting Mark Taylor, merely prolonged the agony for Australia.

The fourth match in the series is in Durban on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-



JONTY RHODES ... m-o-m

day international between Australia and South Africa at Newlands here Wednesday.

SOUTH AFRICA

Koen c Di Venuto b Dale	22
Gibbs b Gillespie	28
Kallis b Warne	23
Cullinan run out	12
Rhodes not out	83
Cronje b Blewett	3
Crookes c Healy b Warne	18
Pollock lbw Warne	21
Richardson run out	4
Bryson not out	17
Extras (lb-11; nb-1; w-2)	14
Total (for 8 wickets)	245
Fall of wickets: 1-52; 2-53; 3-80; 4-101; 5-106; 6-176; 7-216; 8-222	

Bowling

Rieffel	10	0	47	0
Dale	10	1	26	1
Gillespie	10	1	39	2
Warne	10	0	64	2
Blewett	6	0	30	1
Bevan	4	0	28	0

AUSTRALIA

Blewett b Pollock	6
Di Venuto run out	13
Law c Richardson b Bryson	4
S Waugh b Bryson	0
Bevan c Kallis b Pollock	52
Healy c and b Crookes	25
Warne run out	6
Rieffel run out	6
Dale not out	12
Gillespie c Gibbs b Donald	17
M Waugh (absent injured)	
Extras (lb-4; nb-1; w-6)	11
Total (for 9 wks in 44.5 overs)	199
Fall of wks: 1-14; 2-25; 3-25; 4-25; 5-94; 6-136; 7-157; 8-170; 9-199	

Bowling

Pollock	8	0	35	2
Bryson	9	0	34	2
Donald	7.5	1	25	1
Kallis	6	0	30	0
Crookes	10	0	42	1
Cronje	4	0	29	0

Result: South Africa won by 46 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Jonty Rhodes

Azizi named Asian player-of-the-year

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 3: Iranian striker Khodadad Azizi has been named Asian player-of-the-year, Asia's governing body for soccer said Thursday night, reports AP.

The 25-year-old Azizi was chosen for his outstanding performance and role in helping Iran finish third at the Asian Cup Championship in the United Arab Emirates last December, the Asian Football Confederation said.

Azizi, who was named the Most Valuable Player in the Asian Cup, was chosen over nominees Ali Daei of Iran, Ko Jeong-won of South Korea and Mohamed Al Daeey and Yousef Al Thunayan of Saudi Arabia for player of the year honours.

Iran also was chosen by a panel of judges for the 1996 fair play award.

At ceremonies attended by FIFA president Joao Havelange and general secretary Sepp Blatter, China also received two awards — for women's team of the year and coach of the year, Ma Yunan. It was the third straight award for the Chinese women's team.

Thailand's Bamrong Boonprom was named young player-of-the-year, Saudi Arabia was voted national team of the year, and South Korea's Ilhwa Chunma was named club of the year.

Pirom Un Prasert of Thailand was named referee-of-the-year, Al Muwasi Mohamed Hamed of Oman assistant referee of the year, and Azam Mahmood of Bangladesh sportswriter-of-the-year.



Juan-Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), honours Hungarian soccer legend Ferenc Puskas with the IOC award at the People's Stadium in Budapest on April 2.

Nothing missing in S America

BUENOS AIRES, Apr 3: A typically highly charged night of South American World Cup qualifiers saw eight players sent off and a mass brawl in La Paz which overshadowed two excellent wins by Bolivia and Paraguay — the latter's 2-1 triumph in the top of the table clash with Colombia sent them three points clear, reports AFP.

Paraguay, who had keeper Jose Luis Chilavert sent off for a dispute with Colombia's Newcastle United striker Faustino Asprilla, last qualified for the World Cup finals in 1986 and with seven games to go and seven points clear of the third and fourth placed teams, Bolivia and Ecuador, they look assured of making it.

An all out brawl between Argentinean and Bolivian players marred the home side's 2-1 win over the 1986 World Cup winners which sent them into third spot in the World Cup qualifying table — the first four automatically qualify for the finals in France next June.

In the other two matches Uruguay beat bottom placed Venezuela 3-1 while Ecuador held on for a 2-2 draw despite having two players sent off.

In the Bolivian match the Brazilian referee Marinho Cidrack, who booked seven players and sent off two Argentinians, was forced to suspend the match for 10 minutes while the players were calmed down.

Trouble broke out when Argentinean forward Julio Cruz was punched by a Bolivian substitute a minute before the end of the match and retaliated, whereupon pandemonium broke out.

Several of the players on the pitch tried to calm things down apart from Argentinean playmaker Ariel Ortega who carried on the fracas by punching the Argentinean born but naturalised Bolivian Fernando Ochoaizpur, who had scored Bolivia's second goal.

"The Argentinean players who took part in the brawl are nothing short of disgraceful," Bolivian coach Antonio Lopez said.

Asprilla jeered in Chilavert's face after the goal-keeper had knocked him over and the referee Wilson Mendonca sent them both off.

The win that gives Paraguay a three-point lead over Colombia was engineered by defender turned forward Carlos Gamarra.

He scored the first, his second of the qualifiers, after only six minutes and then created the second, a minute after Colombia had equalised through a penalty by Mauricio Serna, after his shot had rebounded off the post and Derlis Soto bundled the ball past keeper Fandi Mondragon.

Dual World Cup winners Uruguay regained their chances of qualifying for the 1998 World Cup finals with their defeat of Venezuela — six weeks after they were whipped 4-0 by Ecuador.

Gonzalo de Los Santos and Ronaldo, Romario on song

BRASILIA, Apr 3: Young Brazilian star Ronaldo and the old leading striker Romario scored a double again here on Wednesday as world champions Brazil romped to a 4-0 friendly win over fellow South American side Chile — hinting that they could provide a powerful attack in next year's World Cup finals, reports AFP.

The 20-year-old Ronaldo opened the scoring in the seventh minute with a header from Real Madrid defender Roberto Carlos cross.

Bolivia went ahead through a seventh minute header by Anntonio Sandy, a veteran of the 1994 World Cup finals, following a freekick by Ramiro Castillo.

The Argentinians, suffering their second defeat in the group stage, pulled level through a well executed penalty by Nestor Gorosito in the 43 minutes.

However, the Bolivians sealed their win three minutes after halftime as Ochoaizpur shot past Argentinean keeper Ignacio Gonzales.

The Argentinians went to pieces and Cidrack had no option but to send off both Nelson Vivas and Gustavo Zapata for their second bookable offences in the 66th and 81st minutes — in indication of the way the Argentinians played was that the Bolivian brothers Ivan and Ramiro Castillo were fouled 29 times.

Asprilla, the qualifying group's leading scorer with six goals, and Chilavert, who has scored once thus far despite playing in goal, were red carded for fighting in the 78th minute and Colombia had midfielder Mendoza sent off in the last minute — they will all miss the next match.

Ecuador, who have never qualified for a World Cup finals, held on for what could prove a vital point drawing 1-1 with Peru despite finishing the match with just nine men.

Colombian referee John Toro sent off Augustin Delgado in the 50th minute for a second bookable offence, which Peru seized advantage of by taking the lead through playmaker Roberto Palacios in the 59th minute — his fifth goal of the tournament.

Ecuador equalised in the 79th minute courtesy of an Alex Aguirre penalty and then held out after Luis Capurro was sent off for his second bookable offence in the 85th minute.

Ecuador remain in the top four, who automatically qualify for the World Cup in France next year, equal on goal difference with Argentina, although they have scored more goals.

Europe taking a shape

PARIS, Apr 3: Europe's probable World Cup qualifiers for the 1998 World Cup finals became clearer on Wednesday with just over seven months to go till the end of qualifying, reports AFP.

October 11 sees the last round of matches which will decide the nine group winners and the best second-placed team who qualify by right, and the eight other runners-up who must undergo a two-leg play-off to earn their passage.

Europe will have 15 teams in all including host France in the 32-nation finals.

Italy's barren draw in Poland consolidated their lead in Group Two, while fellow three-times World Cup champions Germany faced an embarrassing upset before a Ulf Kirsten hat-trick earned them a 3-2 Group Nine win over Albania.

Greece became more of a certainty for France next year with their 1-0 win in Bosnia as they lead Group One.

Scotland had their second 2-0 win in five days as they beat Austria in Glasgow to motor seven points clear in Group Four. On Saturday Craig Brown's men had also won 2-0 at home to Estonia.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's 2-1 home win over Northern Ireland shot them ahead in Group Nine just above Portugal and Germany.

However sport must have losers as well as winners. Both Northern Ireland and Republic Ireland, who lost 3-2 in Macedonia, look to be going out of the competition to leave no representative from the Emerald Isle. Not since 1978 have neither team qualified for the World Cup finals.

And the Czech Republic, who won such acclaim from neutrals at Euro '96 last year as they came second after being a whisker way from the title, look to be heading into the World Cup wilderness.

Their 2-1 home loss to Yugoslavia was a far cry from their Euro '96 success when they led 1-0 before two goals from Germany's Oliver Bierhoff earned Germany their third title at Wembley.

And Croatia, who had no disgrace in losing to a Matthias Sammer-inspired Germany in the Euro '96 quarterfinals, might rue only gaining a point after being 3-1 up with 25 minutes to go against Slovenia in Group One.

Primoz Gliza added two more goals in that period to complete his hat-trick and possibly prevent the likes of stars Davor Suker, Robert Prosinecki and Alen Hoksic reaching the finals.

Italy kept their World Cup qualifying campaign on track when they settled for a scrappy 0-0 draw with Poland.

But when Albania fortunately won another penalty in the 60th minute Austinin Kila stepped up and hit his shot through Kokpe to stun Germany.

However, Kirsten, who only came on in the 62nd minute, responded with three close-range strikes in the space of 20 minutes to put the Germans back in command.

Kola then fired home another spot-kick in the last minute to cap a bizarre night.

Two superb goals from Kevin Gallacher, his first for his country in three-and-a-half years, gave Scotland a 2-0 victory over Austria.

The Scots, in determined mood throughout against the Australians, also undefeated in the group before this match, made the breakthrough after 24 minutes to send the Tartan Army wild with delight.

Gallacher, who has broken his leg twice in the last three years, won the ball in midfield and split the Austrian defence with a lovely weighted pass to Darren Jackson.

German keeper Andreas Kokpe came to the European champions' rescue after 15th minute when he saved Altin Rakllji's spot-kick.

Saudi booters off the hook

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 3: Three Saudi Arabia national soccer players who were tested positive for drugs at the Asian Cup in December, have been let off due to discrepancies in doping procedure, officials said today, reports AFP.

"FIFA has investigated the case and found it is not possible to take any disciplinary action or ban the players," Asian football supreme Peter Velappan was quoted by the national Bernama news agency as saying here.

He said there were some discrepancies in the execution of the doping control and the findings were invalid.

Velappan, who is the general-secretary of the Kuala Lumpur-based Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said, after the dope result proved positive, the Saudi Arabia FA denied the possibility of its players being on drugs and requested for an investigation.

Saudi Arabia beat United Arab Emirates 4-2 on penalty kicks to win the title held in UAE.

Velappan said the AFC then requested FIFA to form an independent investigative panel.



Argentine Julio Cruz (L) and Bolivian Sergio Castillo fight for the ball during their World Cup qualifying tie in La Paz on April 2. Bolivia won 2-1. — AFP/UNB photo

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Friday 4th March

(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes)

BBC
6:00 BBC World News 6:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 7:00 BBC World News, Inc. World Business Report/Asia Today & 24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 10:05 World Focus: Panorama 11:00 BBC Newsdesk 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Panorama 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: The Travel Show 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 5:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:30 World Focus: Panorama 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific

8:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Top Gear 11:00 The World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Film 97 3:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc World Business Report & 24 Hours 4:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc Asia Today & World Business Report 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newsnight
6:30am Frame by Frame 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophya 8:00 Frame by Frame 9:00 Jump Start VJ Alessandra 10:00 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00noon Rewind VJ Sophya 1:00 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Frame by Frame 2:30 Liberty First Day First Show 3:00

STAR PLUS
6:30 Ninasud 7:30 Good Morning India 9:30 Aerobics Oz Style 10:00 The Urban Peasant 10:30 Fashion Television 11:00 Kate & Allie 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Space: Above And Beyond 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Ghanita 3:30 Buniyad 4:00 Tu Tu Main Main 4:30 Lost In Space 5:30 New Adventures of Black Beauty 6:00 Kate & Allie 6:30

STAR SPORTS
6:30am The Asian Football Show 13 7:30 Omega Tour 1997 Asian Honda Classic, Hils 8:30 Sharjah Cup Hils 9:00 International Motorsports 10:00 ISF World Tour-13 10:30 Live 1997 Sharjah Cup Pakistan vs Sri Lanka 1st Session From Sharjah Cricket Stadium 2:15 Indian Racing Festival Trophy 97 3:30 Live 1997 Sharjah Cup Pakistan vs Sri

STAR MOVIES
7:30am Romance: Heartbeat 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:30 Family Journey: To The Magic Cave PG (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Action: Bullet For The General 12 (Arabic Subtitles) 1:30 Romance: Pump Up The Volume 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 3:30 Comedy: Just One Of The Girls 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Adventure: Treasure Island 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 7:30

ZEE TV
6:00 Jagran 6:30 ZED 7:00 ZED 7:30 Insight 8:00 News 8:30 Dream Merchants 9:00 Disney Hour 10:00 Gaane Anjane 10:30 Aa Ki Adalat 11:00 Hanste Khetle 11:30 Hasratein 12:00 Roshani 12:30 Chutki Baja Ke 1:00 Manasi 1:30 Sileta 2:00 Hum Paanch 2:30 Tara 3:00 Raahat 3:30 Khana Khazana 4:00 Ek Aur Mahabharat 4:30 Low Cal Show 5:00 Hi Zindagi Vibe Zindagi 5:30 Daak Ghar Apna Ghar 6:00 Bournvita Quiz Contest 6:30 Disney Hour 7:30

EL TV
12:30 Hindi Feature Film 02:00 Shadyantra 02:30 Liberty Public Demand 03:30 Sorry Meri Lorry 04:00 HFF (Bury) 07:00 Music Capsules 07:30 Stand By My Side Music Capsules 08:30 Haseen Pal 08:40 Newswline 9:00 Awaz Naye Andaz Wahi 09:30 Vb+ Public Demand 02:00 Gujarati Band 03:00 Gulmohar West 03:30 Y Mast Mast Show 04:00 Dard 04:30 ZED 05:00 HFF 07:50

PTV
08:00 TILAWAT AUR TARJUMA/HAMD/NAAT 08:20 BOLTA HAATH 08:35 Sada-E-Kashmir 09:10 DASTAR KHAWAN 09:25 Karb (serial) 11:00 KHABRAIN 11:15 English Film: 11:45 Sports Program 02:02 BISMILLAH 02:15 FEHM-UL-QURAN 02:40 NATAK RANG (SINH) 03:25 Ek Raat Ek Kahani (Drama) 04:40 Sehat Aur Sukoon (Drama) 05:25 Biology for 10th 05:55 Uffah (Serial) 06:25 AIJU COURSE 07:20 Full House (Comedy Eng. Film) 07:45ENGLISH NEWS 08:10 Fun Time Poppet Show 08:45 Paal Do Paal (Serial) 09:00 Break for Headlines News 10:00 Khabarnama & Commercial 10:35 Bollywood Top Ten Count-down Film Music

SONY ET
08:30 Public Kya Bola (Hit Songs Show) 09:00 The Three Stooges (Eng. Comedy Film) 09:30 Dennis The Menace (Hindi Dub Film) 10:00 Dream Of Jeannie (English Film) 10:30 3 0 Mera Jigar Gaya Ji (Serial) 11:30 Gaane Jaane Maane 12:00 BSA Star Ki Pasand 12:30 Sidhi (Serial) 01:00 5-Star Xpress 01:30 The Young and the Restless 02:30 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 05:30 The 3 Stooges 06:00 Dennis The Menace (Hindi Dub English Film) 6:30 Public Kya Bola 07:00 Dream Of Jeannie (Hindi Dub English Film) 7:30 Bewitched 08:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune (Game Show) 08:30 Cine Prime-Hindi

DD 7
10:30 Janmadin (Birthday Greetings) 11:00 Rabindra Sangeet 11:15 Light Instrumental-Folk Songs 11:30 Parliament Hour 12:30 Serial: Monorama Cabin 01:00 Janmabhumi 01:30 Trishna (Serial) 02:00 (Serial) 02:30 Bakul Katha 03:00 Annabhyanban 03:30 Feluda-30 05:05 Nepal Prog. 05:30 05:05 Health Program 06:00 Palti Katha: Banglar Mukh 06:30 Ase Sande Ki Anande (Serial) 07:00 Subashita 07:30 Bangla Sambad 08:00 Ghourai Nat 08:30 Tanaporan 09:00 Jannabhumi 09:25 Sahitya Samshkriti 10:00 Bengali Movie Club Film Show 01:00 Closed