

Sport

SL-England WC opener



LONDON, June 17: Defending champions Sri Lanka will meet host nation England at Lord's in the opening match of the 1999 World Cup of cricket, reports AP.

The draw for the World Cup, announced at its official launch at Lord's Tuesday, sees the two nations join India, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya in Group A.

The opening game is set for May 14.

In Group B, 1996 World Cup runners-up Australia open against Scotland on May 16, and are joined by the West Indies, Pakistan, New Zealand and Bangladesh in the group.

Bangladesh and Scotland are both first-timers in the World Cup, which will be staged over five weeks in England, Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands. The tournament will have 42 matches and culminate with the final at Lord's on June 20.

Bangladesh and Scotland qualified after finishing in the top three of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in April.

Kenya runners-up to Bangladesh in that tournament-

its final, qualify for their second consecutive World Cup.

The six teams in each group will play each other once on a round-robin basis, with the top

Hingis tops earners' list

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, June 17 (Reuters): Leading money winners in women's tennis this year as issued by the WTA Tour on Monday:

Player	Dollars
1. Hingis	1,590,891
2. Majoli	996,476
3. Davenport	606,141
4. Fernandez	551,027
5. Pierce	541,891
6. Coetzee	429,534
7. Zvereva	410,036
8. Seles	363,783
9. Vicario	326,183
10. Spirlea	302,180
11. Martinez	278,417
12. Novotna	274,310
13. Dragomir	252,295
14. Raymond	251,768
15. Graf	230,249
16. Fernandez	208,653
17. Huber	190,813
18. Arendt	173,979
19. Tauziat	170,738
20. McCarthy	169,337

three teams in each group advancing to the next stage, the "Super Six".

For the first time in World Cup competition, the top six qualifying teams will advance carrying points only from the matches they played against the other qualifying teams in their group.

"It is to encourage teams to play their best possible team in every match because teams can no longer afford to lose in the qualifying rounds."

"We feel this format will provide the most exciting play between countries that rarely meet," said tournament director Terry Blake. "It's the best way of ensuring that every match is competitive."

"It means that, say, if Kenya beat the West Indies again (as it did in 1996) then the West Indies could be out of the competition. It's David vs. Goliath."

There will be nine "Super Six" games, with the top three teams from Group A playing the three top Group B teams once each to determine the semi-finalists.

The semis will be played between the first and fourth qualifiers at Old Trafford in Manchester on June 16, and between the second and third best teams at Edgbaston in Birmingham on June 17.

Bangladesh to tour NZ in Sept

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will visit New Zealand either in September or October this year to mark their first official one-day tour.

This was confirmed on Monday by the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Sabir Hossain Chowdhury, MP, who is now attending the annual conference of the ICC at Lord's.

The West Indies will also make their maiden visit to Bangladesh to play a couple of three and four-day matches as well as one-dayers. "The Caribbeans are likely to arrive in early next year after their Pakistan tour, which will begin in the second week of November. Besides, Zimbabwe will also visit Bangladesh in October, 1998."

Biman begin in style

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

AQUA MARINE LIMITED: 77 all out in 26.2 overs (Rubayet 14, Shaheed 10; Ali Ahsan 36, 3/12; Munna 2/12, Athar 2/16)

BANGLADESH BIMAN: 80 for no loss in 11.4 overs (Athar Ali 36 not out, Shaheen 44 not out)

Bangladesh Biman got off to a flying start in the Office cricket league with a 10-wicket defeat on Aqua Marine at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

In a top-sided affair, the professional outfit of the national flag carrier, chasing a paltry Aqua Marine total of 77, reached 80 without any loss in only 11.4 overs, making a mockery of a match.

National opener Athar Ali Khan scored an unbeaten 36 off 29 balls while his partner Ahmed Fayaz Shaheen hammered a 41-ball 44 to cut short a predictable victory with more than 28 overs to spare in the 40-overs-a-side match.

Athar was also in the thick of things in restricting a lowly-rated Aqua Marine to a meagre total. The tall all-rounder with his gentle medium took two wickets for 16 runs in his six overs.

But it was Ali Ahsan Babu, a former national player, stole the limelight by claiming three wickets for only 12 runs. Besides, right-arm seamer Mozibur Rahman, Munna, selected in the 14-man Bangladesh squad for the forthcoming sixth Asia Cup, celebrated his maiden call in the national team with two for 12 in his six overs.

Among the listless Aqua Marine willow-wielders, wicketkeeper Rubayet top-scored with 14 while opener Shaheed, who made 10, was the other double-digit contributor to the vanquished total.

An overnight declaration by Leicestershire 158 runs behind on first innings followed by a rapid Australian second in-

Shivnarine sidelined

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, June 17: Consistent West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul has been forced to miss the brief cricket series against Sri Lanka because of a bothersome neck injury, reports AP.

Chanderpaul was included in the West Indies squad for the one-off international and the first Test of the series. But the 22-year-old left-hander missed both because of a neck injury sustained while taking a catch for Guyana in the regional Red Stripe Cup competition against Jamaica in May.

Chanderpaul flew to Barbados last Friday and, after visiting two specialists, Dr Winston Seale and Dr Llewellyn Harper, was advised to undergo rehabilitation.

"He has muscle spasms in his neck," West Indies Cricket Board secretary Andrew Sealy said in a statement Monday. "He needs to undergo intensive physical therapy with strengthening exercises of the neck and shoulder, combined with other modalities of physical therapy."

"According to Dr Seale, Chanderpaul should be out of cricket for between seven to 14 days," Sealy said.

The West Indies' next international commitment is not until late October, when they tour Pakistan for a three-Test series.

Chanderpaul's place in the West Indies' 13 for the second Test against Sri Lanka at Arnos Vale in St Vincent on Friday goes to left-handed opening batsman Robert Samuels.

The West Indies 13: Courtney Walsh (captain), Sherwin Campbell, Stuart Williams, Floyd Reifer, Brian Lara, Carl Hooper, Roland Holder, Courtney Browne, Ian Bishop, Curtly Ambrose, Franklyn Rose, Mervyn Dillon, Robert Samuels.

Small Wonder 8:30 Banjara Guest House 9:00 Kohra 9:30 Star News 10:00 Aloo 10:30 The X Files 11:30 The Bold & the Beautiful 12:00am Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News 1:30 L.A. Law 2:30 Picket Fences 3:30 Veggie 4:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 Barnaby Jones

STAR SPORTS

7:30am ASP World Championships Belts Beach Classic 8:30 Malboro Asia Road Racing Championship 1997 Bangkok, Thailand 9:30 Water Sports World 11:00 Super League Rugby 12:30 International Tests New Zealand v Fiji 2:00 Trans World Sport 3:00

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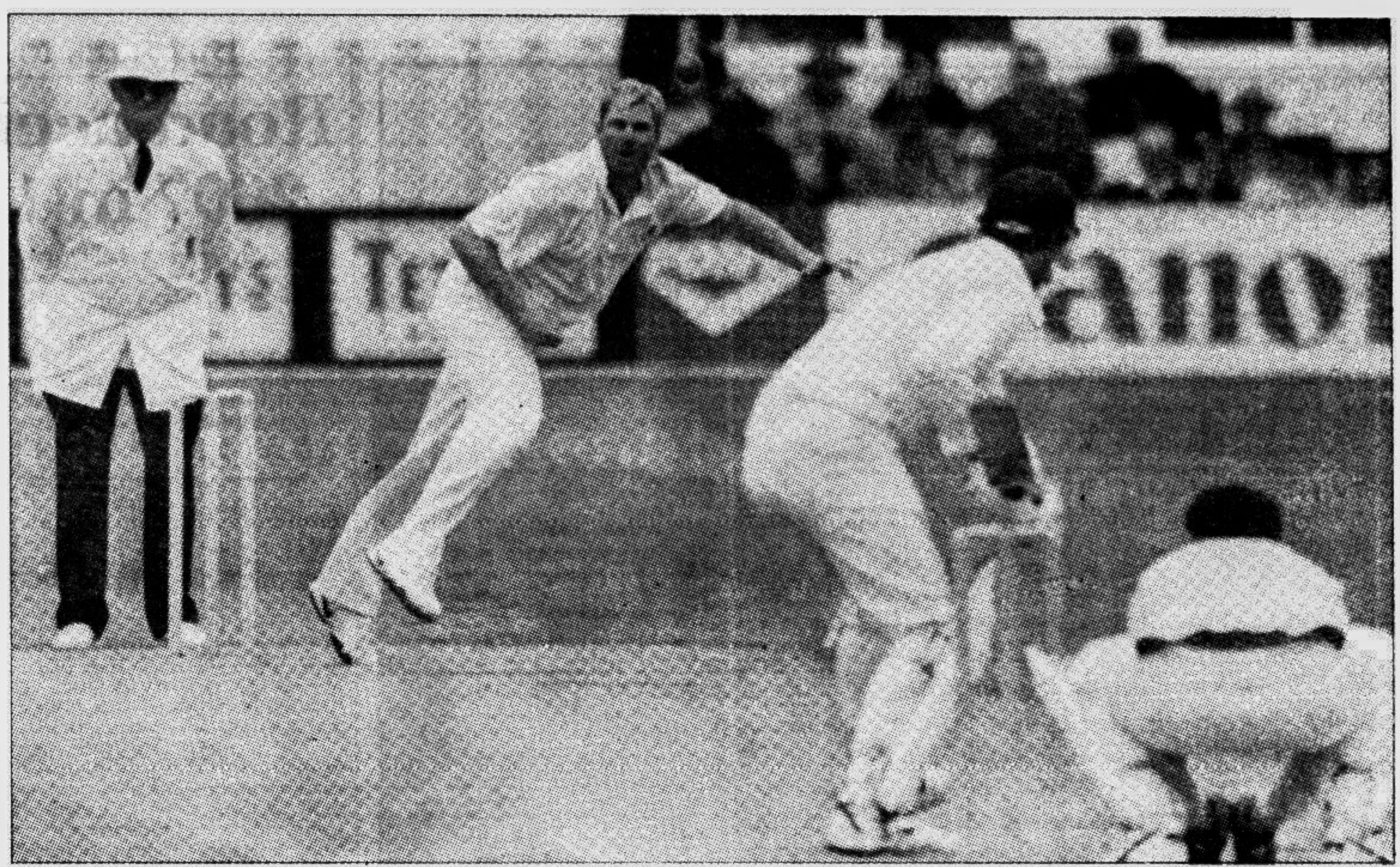
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Australian ace leg-spinner Shane Warne in action against Leicestershire on the last day of their three-day fixture at Leicester on June 16.

Warne warms up for Lord's



LEICESTER, June 17: Shane Warne captured five for 42 to hint at improving form as the Australians

snatched an 84-run win over the English county champions Leicestershire on Monday, reports Agencies.

Set a target of 264 in a minimum of 65 overs after two declarations on the third and last day, Leicestershire were bowled out for 179.

Paul Reiffel added three for 42 to his first innings three for 49.

Having arrived as a cover for the injured fast-bowling duo of Jason Gillespie (hamstring) and Andrew Bichel (sent home), Reiffel has picked up nine wickets in just 32 overs, edging out fellow left-arm fast bowler Brendon Julian for a second Test place.

Australian captain Mark Taylor said: "Reiffel bowled very well in this game and Warne also did in patches. "Shane is not at his best but he's getting there. There was a little bit more loop from him today and he was beginning to get the right shape and turn."

"Perhaps he will come right during the Lord's Test or perhaps it might be the match after that. His shoulder is fine and the main thing with him has been getting used to a different type of ball over here."

An overnight declaration by Leicestershire 158 runs behind on first innings followed by a rapid Australian second in-

nings of 105 for three declared, in which Taylor made 57 from 65 balls set up the chance of a definite result to the rain-hit game.

Leicestershire captain James Whitaker got off the mark by hooking fast bowler Glenn McGrath for six but became Warne's first victim after scoring 21, lbw as he propped forward to a top spinner.

A Warne googly to Paul Nixon and a smart stumping by Ian Healy ended Leicestershire's last hope of forcing victory, with the leg-spinner and Reiffel moping up the lower order.

Taylor said: "This was a bit of a contrived result but it has been a month since we have won a game and I wanted to create a situation today in which we were bowling under a little bit of pressure to get a victory."

"We will take a lot of positives from this game and I was more happy with our intensity in the field. There seemed to be more desire to win out there today than there was at Derby in the match before the first Test."

It was Australia's first win in 10 tour matches — and a meaningful one — keeping in mind the second Test against England begins Thursday at Lord's.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard Monday at the end of the three-day match between Australia and Leicestershire at Grace Road: AUSTRALIA: First innings 220 for eight declared

Paul propels Kent



LONDON, June 17: Zimbabwe leg-spinner Paul Strang completed a match haul of 11 for 186 to bowl Kent to the top of the English county championship table on Monday, reports Reuters.

Strang took four for 68 to add to his first innings seven for 118 as Kent snatched a 58-run victory over Lancashire in the penultimate over on the fourth and final day at Old Trafford.

Set a target of 306 off a minimum of 58 overs, Lancashire were all out for 247 after their last six wickets crashed for 44.

England middle order batsman John Crawley struck 91 off 119 balls, with 12 fours, but his dismissal marked the end of Lancashire's push for victory.

On 245 for nine, uncapped pair Jamie Haynes and Paul Riddaway tried to hold out at the finish but the former was bowled by paceman Martin McCague with the fifth ball of the game's penultimate over.

Worcestershire seamer Stuart Lampitt ended a stubborn innings by discarded England wicketkeeper Jack Russell to help inflict Gloucestershire's first championship defeat of the season, at Bristol.

Lampitt prised out Russell for 65 to end a 70-run eighth-wicket stand with Tim Hancock, after the pair had come together at 189 for seven in pursuit of a victory target of 372.

The dismissal of Russell, who had already shared a 57-run seventh-wicket stand with captain Mark Alleyne, was the beginning of the end for Gloucestershire, who went down by 95 runs.

Rain curtailed the fourth and last day at The Oval where Yorkshire, needing 316 to win, were struggling on 115 for four.

Australian Darren Lehmann was unbeaten on 57, adding his first-innings century, after pace bowler Martin Bicknell had snapped up three for 32.

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Piacenza coach to join Napoli

NAPLES, Italy, June 17: Borussia Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld is expected to join Napoli as their new coach, reports Reuters.

Hitzfeld, 47, has been in charge of Dortmund since 1995, leading them to the Bundesliga title last season.

Napoli, who are currently in 14th place in the league, are looking for a new coach after the departure of Claudio Ranieri.

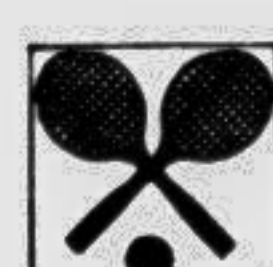
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Pete faces tricky opener



WIMBLEDON, June 17: Pete Sampras, whose last two defeats have been to Swedish players, will face another Swede in the opening round of Wimbledon next week, reports AP.

The top-seeded Sampras, winner of three straight titles from 1993-95, drew Mikael Tillstrom as his first-round opponent in Tuesday's draw at the All England Club.

Tillstrom reached the third round at Wimbledon last year and is currently ranked No. 54. On paper at least, he should not pose too much of a threat to the world's top-ranked player.

But Sampras has been below par lately, losing in the third round at the French Open to Magnus Norman and falling to Jonas Bjorkman in the quarterfinals of last week's Queen's Club tournament.

If Sampras gets past Tillstrom, he should have a relatively easy path through the next rounds — until a possible quarterfinal showdown against fellow three-time champion Boris Becker. The German is seeded No. 8 this year.

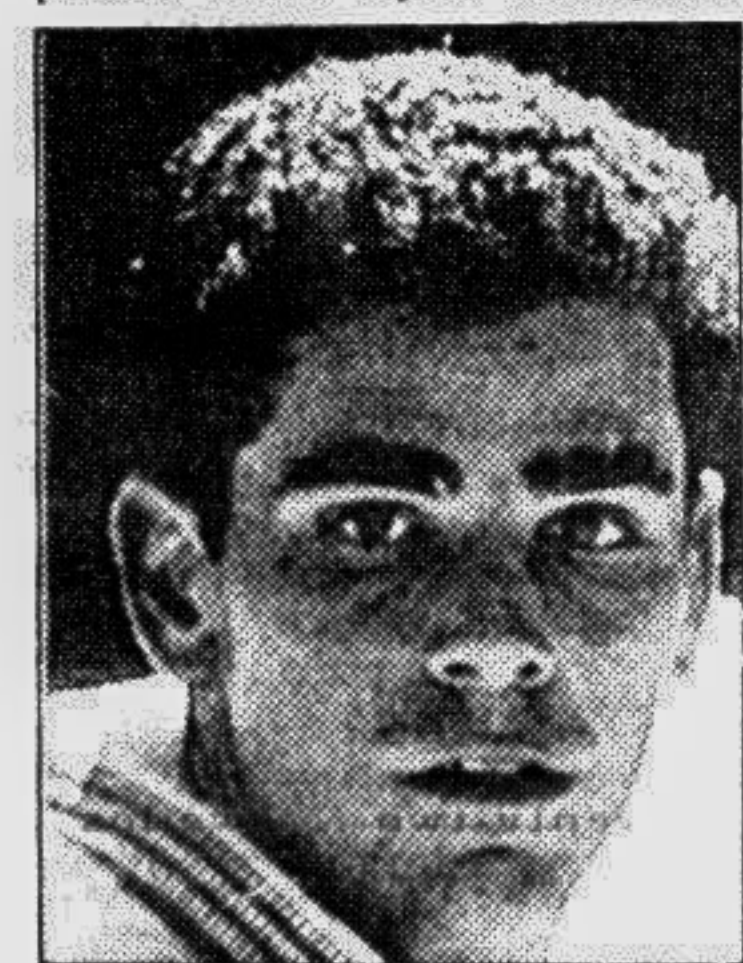
Second-seeded Goran Ivanisevic, No. 3 Yevgeny Kafelnikov and defending champion and No. 4 Richard Krajicek drew little-known opponents for the first round.

Ivanisevic will face Romania's Dinu Pescariu, Kafelnikov was paired against Spain's Juan Antonio Marin and Krajicek will play Germany's Marcello Craca.

The theoretical quarterfinal matchups are: Sampras vs. Becker and Kafelnikov vs. No. 5 Michael Chang in the top half, with Krajicek vs. No. 6 Thomas Muster and Ivanisevic vs. No. 7 Mark Philippoussis in the bottom half.

The draw threw up several intriguing first-round matches. The pick of the bunch is the pairing of Philippoussis and Britain's Greg Rusedski, two of the biggest servers in the game.

Philippoussis won the Queen's event, beating Ivanisevic in the final, and has emerged as one of the Wimbledon favorites. Rusedski got to the semifinals at Queen's and has a game perfectly suited for



PETE SAMPRAS

WIMBLEDON SEEDINGS

LONDON, June 17 (Xinhua): Following are the seedings for the Wimbledon tennis championships announced on Monday:

Women's singles	Men's singles
1. Martina Hingis (SWI)	1. Pete Sampras (US)
2. Monica Seles (US)	2. Goran Ivanisevic (CRO)
3. Jana Novotna (CZH)	3. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (RUS)
4. Andreja Majoli (CRO)	4. Richard Krajicek (NED)
5. Lindsay Davenport (US)	5. Michael Chang (CHI)
6. Amanda Coetzer (RSA)	6. Thomas Muster (AUT)
7. Anke Huber (GER)	7. Mark Philippoussis (AUS)
8. Sanchez-Vicario (SPA)	8. Boris Becker (GER)
9. Mary Pierce (FRA)	9. Marcelo Rios (CHI)
10. Conchita Martinez (SPA)	10. Carlos Moya (SPA)
11. Mary-Joe Fernandez (US)	11. Gustavo Kuerten (BRZ)
12. Irina Spirlea (ROM)	12. Patrick Rafter (AUS)
13. Kimberley Po (US)	13. Andrei Medvedev (UKR)
14. Brenda Schultz (NED)	14. Tim Henman (GBR)
15. Ruxandra Dragomir (ROM)	15. Wayne Ferreira (RSA)
16. Barbara Paulus (AUS)	16. Petr Korda (CZH)

Saga of 'sultan of spin'



LONDON, June 17 (AP): Shane Warne admitted four years of international cricket and thousands of

overs have taken their toll on him since the last Ashes tour here in 1993.

The ace Australian leg-spinner, perhaps the hottest property of this decade, has struggled on the current tour despite taking 20 first-class wickets in four matches.

Warne had said before the current tour that this could be his last Ashes series in England.

It is four years and 2000 plus overs since he delivered the "ball of the century" to dismiss Mike Gatting four years ago, and Warne said the strenuous workload had made all the difference in "the Shane Warne of 1993 and the Warne of 1997."

"If you do the same thing every day for four years it's going

to have a little psychological effect, a body effect," Warne said. "Before 1993 I'd only had two years of playing Test cricket and hadn't bowled half as much."

Warne took only one wicket in Australia's nine-wicket loss to England in the first Test at Edgbaston, and the England batsmen — particularly double century maker Nasser Hussain and centurion Graham Thorpe — appeared to have little trouble against the Australian.

His first Test figures — one for 137 — were his third worst in 53 Tests for Australia since he made his debut against India in Sydney in 1992.

"The problem as I see it is that everybody goes out there and expects me to bowl and get them drifting and turning, but you can only do that if the wicket enables you to turn the ball," he said.

"If you have five-day Test matches and there are foot marks you are going to see the

ball turning."

Warne also said the green tops prepared so far for the tourist matches have also blunted his ability to have an impact.

"When wickets that are prepared you are more likely to see more of the three and four wickets than the big sixes and sevens," Warne said of his match returns.

"I don't think I've had too many bad days in the last few years but I've had days where I haven't bowled as well," Warne admitted.

"It is easy to turn on third, fourth and fifth days, but not on the first evening of a Test match after we have been bowled out for 118."

On first and second day wickets it doesn't turn as much and everybody writes you off.

"