

Betts burst sinks Kent

LONDON, June 21: Durham bowler Melvyn Betts took five in six overs against Kent on Friday to put his side on course for their first county championships win in 24 matches, reports Reuter.

On a rain-soaked day little play was possible in most county games. Betts' career-best figures of seven for 29 saw the championships leaders slump from 138 for four overnight to 167 all out in their first innings at Darlington.

But Betts, 22, had to share some of the limelight with Kent seamer Matthew Fleming who took four for 34 to add to his first innings tally of five for 55.

Durham ended the third day with a lead of 267.

Mates promise Christie a farewell gift

MUNICH, Germany, June 21: The British men's team spearheaded by veterans Roger Black and Clive Jakson hopes to give captain Linford Christie a winning send off here this weekend in the European Cup final for the Bruno Zauli Trophy, reports AFP.

The British, who broke the stranglehold of the former East German democratic republic and Russia to become the first team apart from those two to take the title in 1989, have finished runners-up on the last five occasions — four of those to this year's hosts Germany.

The 37-year-old Christie, the former world and Olympic 100 metres champion, has said that this really is his last hurrah in the British vest which he has carried to seven successive 100 metres triumphs in the European Cup, four 200 metres titles and three relays.

Christie, who announced his premature retirement twice last year, will lead from the front this weekend in the 100m and 200m but has declined to run in the relay — the event he has failed in twice dropping the baton.

He can expect wholehearted support from his fellow veterans Black, in the 400 metres, and the 110 metres hurdles world record holder Jackson — though both were contentious choices for the team.

The 31-year-old Black, slated to take over the captaincy after Christie's retirement, is being pursued by a whole pack of young and promising 400-metre runners including world indoor silver medalist Jamie Baulch while Jackson, 30, was fortunate to get the nod ahead of perennial rival Tony Jarrett who has been in good form on the Grand Prix circuit.

The greatest problem confronting British athletics is where the next generation of Christie's and Jackson's is coming from.

Apart from the 400-metre event the rest of the cupboard looks bare — hardly surprising when one considers that each member of the German team is subsidised this weekend to the tune of 1,500 pounds (2,250 dollars) while the British team receive nothing.

Grant wins IBC belt

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, June 21: Michael Grant remained unbeaten with a victory over Al Cole before 1,412 fans at Bally's Park Place Casino on Friday night, reports AP.

Grant improved to 25-0 with 17 knockouts when referee Eddie Cotton stopped the fight after 10 rounds of the scheduled 12-round bout. The victory gave the 24-year-old Grant the International Boxing Council title.

The defeat dropped Cole to 28-3. It was the second loss in the Spring Valley, New York, resident's last three fights.

Grant, who fights out of Norristown, Pennsylvania, used his 87-inch (2.21 metres) reach to consistently land his left jab. He also stunned Cole with several overhand rights.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Green Delta First Division Hockey League (Venue: Hockey Stadium) Farashgan SC vs Victoria SC (2:15 pm).

Mariner Youngs Club vs Sadharan Bima KS (4:15 pm).

Office Cricket League Mannan Group vs Bangladeshi Police (DCS).

Glenn grinds hosts down



LONDON, June 21: Glenn McGrath, re-lishing the sun on his back for the first time in the rain-affected second Test between Australia and England, took a record eight for 38 today as England tumbled to 77 all out in their first innings, their lowest score at Lord's this century, reports Reuter.

The Australian fast bowler, who took all three wickets to fall in Friday's second day, bowled unchanged from the pavilion end throughout a morning's play interrupted by 15 minutes for rain.

His figures were a record for England versus Australia Tests, bettering the eight for 43 recorded by England left-arm spinner Hedley Verity in 1934 and Bob Massie's eight for 53 for Australia in 1972.

Only 90 minutes play had been possible on Friday after Thursday's washout and further rain had been forecast for today.

In the event, only a quarter of an hour was lost and the black clouds soon rolled away and the sun broke through.

McGrath, who had not previously taken five wickets in an innings against England, bowled with pace, venom and an immaculate off-stump line when England resumed at 38 for three.

After Paul Reiffel had dismissed Graham Thorpe caught at short-leg for 21, McGrath swept through the England middle-order.

John Crawley, prodding uncertainly forward, was caught behind for one, Nasser Hussain fell lbw for an obdurate 19 to the first ball after the rain break and Robert Croft was also caught by wicketkeeper Ian Healy for two.

Darren Gough crashed McGrath for consecutive fours through the off-side but was then caught for 10 while Mark Ealham (7) pushed a tame catch to Matthew Elliott at mid-on off Reiffel.

McGrath took his eighth wicket for his best haul in Test cricket when Andrew Caddick was lbw for one and led his team off the field knowing he had given the Australians a chance of squaring the six-Test series.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at lunch on the third day of the second Test between England and Australia at

Lord's on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 38-3)

Butcher c Blewett b McGrath 5

Atherton c Taylor b McGrath 1

Stewart b McGrath 1

Thorpe c Blewett b Reiffel 21

Crawley c Healy b McGrath 1

Ealham c Elliott b Reiffel 7

Croft c Healy b McGrath 2

Gough c Healy b McGrath 10

Caddick lbw b McGrath 1

Malcolm not out 0

Extras: (b-4, nb-5)

Total: (all out in 42, 3 overs) 77

Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-12; 3-

13; 4-47; 5-56; 6-62; 7-66; 8-76; 9-77.

Bowling: O M R W

McGrath 20.3 8 38 8

Reiffel 15 9 17 2

Kasprowicz 5 1 9 0

Warne 2 0 9 0

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