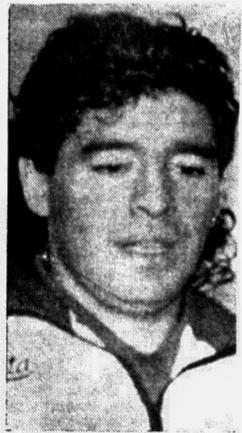


Column One SPORTS TALK



Diego Maradona (World football's superstar) 'The soccer player is no more. No one is sadder about it than me.'

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-86 Tick the Correct Answers

- 1 Who is the Australia cricket coach? Lillee Marsh Simpson
2 Who is the Argentina soccer coach? Passarella Venables Cruvff
3 Which county will Lara lead next year? Essex Durham Warwickshire
4 Who hit the first century in this year's Premier Division cricket league? Nadim Saeed Karm
5 Who lifted the women's singles title of the national TT championships? Limu Tumpa Zulekha

Name Class Roll No. School Address Phone: (If any)



Sampras suffers setback

MELBOURNE, Jan 14: Pete Sampras, playing his first match since suffering an injury at the Davis Cup final in early December, slumped to a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 defeat at the hands of French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten at the Colonial Classic event at Kooyong on Wednesday, reports AP.

Andrei Agassi looked dangerous as he took out Austria's Thomas Muster 6-4, 6-0 in a clash of two former world number one's. Goran Ivanisevic overcame Medvedev 7-6, 6-3, and in a battle of the biggest serves in the game Mark Philippoussis overcame Greg Rusedski 7-5, 6-4.

Strong winds made good tennis impossible, but Kuerten adapted well and followed up some fine serving with excellent volleys. His constant pressure at the net also forced Sampras into errors.

Sampras had looked on course for victory when leading by a set and 3-1, but the Brazilian forced his way back into contention by claiming the next five games and the set. A break to lead 4-3 in the final set was enough to give Kuerten a surprise victory.

The wind was some of the worst conditions I've ever played in, Sampras said. 'It was unbelievable. It wasn't meant for tennis. It was meant for flying a kite. It wasn't an easy day for tennis.'

Kuerten said beating Sampras was special, despite the wind. 'It was impossible to play great tennis and it could have gone either way,' said Kuerten. 'But beating him is still a great feeling. He's been the greatest for five years.'

Muster was suffering from blisters caused by up to six hours practice a day, and Agassi also had the advantage of playing a tournament last week and was match tough. But he still found the conditions a challenge.

'There was a very significant hurricane out there. It was quite El Nino outside,' said the slimmed-down Agassi, who has dropped 22 pounds.

Hosts romp into finals

SYDNEY, Jan 14: A rookie Australian side trounced a hapless New Zealand by 131 runs to cruise into the finals of the tri-series at the Sydney Cricket Ground here today, reports AFP.

Set 251 to win New Zealand, who had to win to keep their hopes of a finals berth alive, simply couldn't cope with some electric Aussie fielding.

Three batsmen were run out, two brilliantly by player-of-the-match Ricky Ponting who in that frame of mind must be challenging Jonny Rhodes as the world's best fielder.

It was a gutsy performance all round from an injury-depleted Australian side, led for the first time by leg-spinner Shane Warne.

They were without the Waugh twins for the first time in 12 years, while pacemen Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie were also sidelined.

Warne, standing in as captain for the injured Steve Waugh, won the toss and chose to bat after earlier saying Australia's batting lineup was 'ready to explode.'

He must have wished he had kept quiet as his side slumped to 36 for three after 12 overs in a rain-affected game reduced to 48 overs.

Left arm paceman Shayne O'Connor was getting the ball to swing in humid, overcast conditions but Ponting and Darren Lehmann led a determined recovery in a rollicking 132-run stand.

The home team sorely missed the flu-inflicted Mark Waugh at the top of the innings. His inexperienced replacement Jimmy Maher, in his first international appearance, fell cheaply for eight, lobbing an easy catch to Daniel Vettori.

The youngster has been prolific for Queensland state this season and has an outstanding one-day record, accumulating 834 runs from 22 matches at 52.12, but failed to turn it on when it mattered.

Stuart Law also missed his opportunity, nicking a Chris Cairns delivery to wicketkeeper Adam Parore.

Newcomer Ian Harvey then holed out to Dion Nash before Ponting took control.

After some early trouble with movement off the seam Ponting dug in and cemented his reputation as a class batsman.

He played some superb drives through cover by dancing down the pitch to meet the ball on the half volley and reached his seventh one day half century off 75 balls.

His majestic 84 put Australia in a competitive position. Ponting was ably supported by Lehmann who made his first 50 in his fifth one-day match before being snared by McMillan for 52.

A dramatic final over saw three wickets fall in successive balls. O'Connor was on a hat-trick after Paul Reiffel and Adam Gilchrist were caught going for the boundary but Paul Wilson denied him when run out to end the innings.

O'Connor was the best of the New Zealand bowlers with four for 51 off 9.5 overs. It was a gettable target but the Kiwi batsmen disintegrated with barely a whimper.

Ponting made the early breakthrough when his lightning reflexes scored a direct hit to run out Craig Spearman for six.

Matthew Horne and Bryan Young soon followed before Ponting struck again, running out Brian McMillan for 10 to leave the New Zealanders struggling at 78 for four.

Despite a fighting 28 from captain Stephen Fleming they never recovered and were dismissed for a paltry 119.

New Zealand could still match Australia's points tally but it would lose out in the head-to-head comparison with the host nation.



Russian tennis sensation Anna Kournikova (R) is helped over a rallying by Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday. Kournikova paid a visit to the Aussie team during a break.

The best-of-three finals of the tri-nation series begin in Melbourne on January 23.

SCOREBOARD: Scoreboard in the tri-series one-day international between Australia and New Zealand at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday. AUSTRALIA: Maher c Vettori b O'Connor 8, Law c Parore c Cairns 12, Harvey c Nash b O'Connor 11, Ponting b McMillan 84, Lehmann c Young b McMillan 52, Pagan c and b Harris 25, Moody c and b Harris 0, Gilchrist c McMillan b O'Connor 28.

STANDINGS: Team P W L Pts. South Africa 6 5 1 10, Australia 6 3 3 6, New Zealand 6 1 5 2.

A trial of two leaders

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Jan 14: England's five-test series against West Indies starting this month will answer major questions about both teams and their status among the nine Test playing nations, reports Reuters.

England captain Mike Atherton, whose grip on the post seemed uncertain when he hesitated before he accepted the leadership, is keen to prove he can at last win an important overseas series.

'I feel we made significant improvements against Australia last summer and that we are a strong side,' said Atherton, who expects to lead England for the 50th successive time in the fourth Test in Barbados.

Atherton has given no hint of the potential batting lineup but Jack Russell is in the side as wicketkeeper. Alec Stewart is expected to concentrate on scoring runs, probably as Atherton's opening partner.

Stewart, and his Surrey colleague Graham Thorpe who now stands ahead of the new West Indies captain, Brian Lara, in the international ratings, will have to score heavily if England are to succeed.

Many critics feel England have their best chance in years against a West Indian team reputed to be torn apart by the decision to appoint the controversial Lara as captain in place of Courtney Walsh.

Lara has long seen the captaincy as his destiny but the treatment of Walsh, sacked after West Indies' 3-0 defeat in Pakistan and a poor performance against England in the Sharjah final, will ensure a barrage of criticism and a hostile crowd in the first Test in Jamaica.

Sabina Park is about eight kms from Walsh's birthplace and in Kingston, the 17th century pirate town, passions run high as a former West Indies captain Richie Richardson found when the fans blamed him for the decision to drop wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon.

Their reaction during a one-day international against South Africa, when Richardson was booed each time he touched the ball, set off a chain of events which led to his eventual resignation.

'I know I will have a hard time at Sabina, but I want to prove that what happened in Pakistan is history,' said Lara. His ability to turn West Indies' fortunes around will depend on Walsh's attitude after losing - quite unjustifiably in the opinion of those who saw his great efforts in Pakistan - to the captaincy and the fitness of Curtly Ambrose.

Without the two fast bowlers who have taken 660 wickets and played 170 Tests between them, the West Indies' attack looks frail, despite the experience of Ian Bishop and the raw power of their latest fast bowling prospect Mervyn Dillon.

Martina, Pete top seeds

MELBOURNE, Jan 14 (Reuters, AP): Martina Hingis, beaten by young American Venus Williams in an Australian Open warm-up event on Tuesday, will head into next week's season opening Grand Slam as top seed, organisers said today.

Sticking by the current world rankings, Australian Open organisers named Pete Sampras as the top men's seed, ahead of Pat Rafter.

US Open champion Rafter is the highest-seeded Australian since Peter McNamara was seeded two in Melbourne in 1981.

American Lindsay Davenport will be second seed in the women's draw, ahead of South Africa's Amanda Coetzer and Iva Majoli of Croatia.

WOMEN

- 1. Hings SWI, 2. Davenport USA, 3. Coetzer RSA, 4. Majoli CRO, 5. Pierce FRA, 6. Spirlea ROM, 7. Sanchez-Vicario SPA, 8. Martinez SPA, 9. Testud FRA, 10. Huber GER, 11. Schell-McCarthy NED, 12. Appelmans BEL, 13. Raymond USA, 14. Van Roost BEL, 15. Dragomir ROM, 16. Sugiyama JPN

MEN

- 1. Sampras USA, 2. Rafter AUS, 3. Chang USA, 4. Bjorkman SWE, 5. Rusedski GBR, 6. Korda CZE, 7. Moya SPA, 8. Muster AUT, 9. Rios CHI, 10. Bruguera SPA, 11. Corretja SPA, 12. Kuerten BRA, 13. Ivanisevic CRO, 14. Mantilla SPA, 15. Philippoussis AUS, 16. Costa SPA

Brian picks up injury

SYDNEY, Jan 14: A shoulder injury cast doubt today over the fitness of South African all-rounder Brian McMillan for Friday's one-day match against New Zealand in Perth, reports AFP.

McMillan's giant frame crashed to earth as he took a brilliant one-handed diving catch to dismiss Australian all-rounder Shane Lee for 15 in South Africa's 155-run victory over a Bradman XI at the Bradman Oval, Bowral, in New South Wales Tuesday.

The 34-year-old immediately clutched the troublesome shoulder and did not return for a second bowling spell.

'He's pretty tender, so we'll have to monitor him over the next few days,' coach Bob Woolmer said in Sydney today.

Friday's match is of little consequence to the Proteas who are already in the finals of the tri-series competition but it could be made a break for New Zealand.

McMillan has played little one-day cricket in the last 12 months and his role has diminished significantly since the arrival of Lance Klusener and Shaun Pollock.

However, he reminded everyone of his talents at the ground that has borne The Don's name since he was knighted in 1949, by clubbing 27 runs off 20 balls and taking 2-25 in six overs.

South Africa gave a lesson to the Bradman XI in much the same way Sir Donald himself used to crush opposing Test teams.

In fact, makeshift opener Herschelle Gibbs' 131 off 127 balls was only two runs fewer than the Bradman XI total of 133 in 34.5 overs.

Gibbs smashed 12 fours and five sixes before crashing out trying to put one into the front yard of Bradman's old house at 20 Glebe Street.

'He was the greatest batsman ever, that says it all,' said Gibbs.

'I believe he played here quite a lot so it's a real privilege to have played here and made a hundred.'

The 24-year-old right-hander was the backbone of South Africa's 288 all out in 50 overs. The last two wickets falling in successive deliveries to Australian Test captain Mark Taylor.

Taylor claimed 2-3 and is on a hat-trick next time he bowls - which isn't very often.

Left-arm spinner Paul Adams cleaned up the tail with 4-28 in 6.5 overs while fast bowler Makhaya Ntini, the first black man to play cricket at senior level for South Africa, took 1-16 off seven.

Ntini was one of four young blacks who came to Australia with help from the Bradman Foundation four years ago to improve his cricket.

Gibbs, like Adams a mixed-race player, put on 122 for the first wicket in 21 overs with Test opener Adam Bacher, the nephew of South African cricket boss Dr Ali Bacher.

FA Cup roundup

LONDON, Jan 14: Andy Campbell and Robbie Mustoe scored second half goals Tuesday as Middlesbrough defeated Queens Park Rangers 2-0 to reach the fourth round of the FA Cup, reports AP.

In another key FA Cup third-round replay, Premier League Wimbledon won 3-2 at Wrexham as Michael Hughes scored in the 17th and 26th and Marcus got what turned out to be the winner in the 35th.

In two other replays, Sheffield United defeated Bristol 2-1 and Ipswich won over Rye House 1-0.

Of five third-round matches, four were settled. Only the Cheltenham-Reading match ended in a 1-1 tie, prompting a replay.

Cheltenham, a semi-pro team, is the darling of the tournament as it tries to reach the fourth round for the first time in its history.

In the other four matches: Bournemouth 0, Huddersfield 1; Hereford 0, Tranmere 3; Peterborough 0, Walsall 2; West Brom 3, Stoke 1.

Walsall's victory puts it into a fourth-round game with Premier League leaders Manchester United, where Walsall will be a long-shot to advance.

In other fourth round matches: Middlesbrough will face either Arsenal or Port Vale; Ipswich face Sheffield United; Cheltenham or Reading will play Carlisle; Tranmere face Sunderland; West Brom face Aston Villa or Portsmouth; Wimbledon face Huddersfield.

Real's rude awakening

VITORIA, Spain, Jan 14: Mighty Real Madrid was beaten by Second Division Alaves in the Spanish King's Cup Tuesday, the day after the super team was named by FIFA as the best club of the century, reports AP.

Manuel Serrano scored the only goal of the match in the 70th minute, imposing a humiliating 1-0 victory over the white-clad team in the first leg of the final 16 in the Cup.



Player-of-the-match Sachin Tendulkar receives his crest from political adviser to the Prime Minister, Dr S A Malek at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar is watching.

World Youth Cup scores

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 14: Centuries were scored in four of the seven under-19 World Cup limited-overs clashes played in various centres across South Africa on Tuesday, as the traditional cricketing nations continued to dominate the tournament, reports AFP.

For South Africa, John Kent put together an attacking 102 to help the host side to an 80-run victory over Kenya at the Oval in Soweto, the sprawling black township near here.

Kenya's defeat means they have to upset India if they are to maintain further interest in the tournament.

India, for their part, easily trounced Scotland at Lenasia, an Asian suburb adjoining Soweto.

Bundling the Scots out for a mere 103, it took India just 26.3 over to reach the winning target, losing just three wickets along the way.

Australia continued to dominate the three-week tournament, which began on Sunday, by downing West Indies by 71 runs, helped by a solid 105 from James Hopes.

Also in on-top mood was Zimbabwean captain Mark Vermuelen, who notched up 119 against Papua-New Guinea in Potchefstroom.

Zimbabwe, batting first and scoring 290 for eight had Papua-New Guinea all out for 143 in the 39th over to win by a comfortable 147 runs, Zimbabwe's David Mutendera taking five for 25.

In Pretoria, New Zealand cleared the Bangladesh hurdle with a 99-run win in a match that produced no notable performances.

Sri Lanka beat Ireland by two wickets in a tightly-fought, low-scoring contest in Boksburg, just east of there.

Namibian opening bowler Rudi Scholtz did what he could to upset England by taking five wickets for 29 at their clash in the little mining town of Randjesfontein, west of Johannesburg.

His effort was not enough, however, to stop England, who went on to win by three wickets and stay ahead of New Zealand in their pool.

In the mis-match of the day, Pakistan beat Denmark by 277 runs, also at Boksburg.

Pakistan raced to 348 for seven in their 50 overs, with 106 coming from the bat of Bazid Khan. The gallant Danes could only manage 71.7 in reply, but at least managed to see out the full 50 overs in blazing mid-summer heat.

Zimbabwe 290 for 8 (Vermuelen 119, Malloch-Brown 62, Dikana 3/41).

Papua New Guinea 143 all out in 39 overs (Iga 30; Nkala 4/20, Mutendera 5/25).

At Pretoria, New Zealand beat Bangladesh by 99 runs. New Zealand 278 for 8 (Kelly 88, Ingram 82; Khan 3/57, Babu 2/32).

Bangladesh 179 all out in 46.3 overs (Al-Shariar 40, Mushfiqur 33; West 3/33, Martin 3/26).

At Randjesfontein, England beat Namibia by three wickets. Namibia 161 for 9 (Kotze 38, Viljoen 33; Franks 3/19, Gough 2/20).

England 162 for 7 in 33.4 overs (Shah 40, Key 35; Scholtz 5/29).

At Lenasia, India beat Scotland by seven wickets. Scotland 103 all out in 48 overs (Millar 21; S Singh 3/15, Sehwaq 3/4).

India 104 for 3 in 26.3 overs (Kaif n.o. 48; Miden 3/37).

At Boksburg, Pakistan beat Denmark by 277 runs.

Pakistan 348 for 7 (Khan 106, Razzak 84; Nelissen 4/58).

Denmark 71 for 7 (Lambert n.o. 16; Razzak 2/7, Ahmed 1/9).

At Soweto, South Africa beat Kenya by 80 runs.

South Africa 283 for 8 (Kent 102, Lumb 52; Odoyo 3/71).

Kenya 203 for 8 (Odoyo 42, Mboya 57 n.o.; Rudolph 3/38).

At Potchefstroom, Australia beat the West Indies by 71 runs.

Australia 299 for 8 (Hopes 105; Jan 3/30).

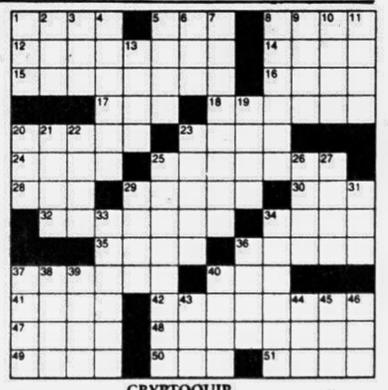
West Indies 228 for 7 (Gayle 65, North 2/30, Hopes 2/39).



Pakistani opener Saeed Anwar pulls Indian leg-spinner Sairaj Bahutule during yesterday's first final of the Independence Cup at the Dhaka Stadium.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Annoy, 5 End of a Web site address, 8 Spiked club, 12 Moral tale, 14 Currier's partner, 15 Echidna's kin, 16 Fashion, 17 Have a whack at it, 18 Cement worker's tool, 20 Intaglio's opposite, 23 Padre's brothers, 24 Computer operator, 25 Yellow plumlike fruits, 28 Actress Zadora, 29 Arouse resentment, 30 Towel term, 32 It's nothing new, 34 Crazy fever, 36 Bamm Bamm's mom, 37 Suitcase, 40 At lunch, 41 Israel's airline, 42 It's for external use only, 47 -avail, 48 Drop a page cloth?, 49 Walk of Fame emblem, 50 Interper-sonal one, 51 Cylinder, 19 sandwich, 19 Profligate, 20 Recipe measure, 21 Largest of the seven, 22 Spiteful, 23 Close-fitting hat, 25 You could call them cordial, 26 Just one of those things, 27 Winnow, 28 Swine, 31 Home for 29 Down, 33 He's an old saw and-sew, 34 Spot, 36 Char, 37 Ex-GIs, 38 Oodles, 39 Actress Turner, 40 Last writes?, 43 Ernstwhile chairman, 44 Mary and Ted's boss, 45 Chemist's workplace, 46 Downed



CRYPTOQUIP C V I X G J S X J J S U T F Q Q C U V I F X K I X A U I N X B T X I J I C N K A G C B X A X J S U Q. Saturday's Cryptogram: YOU CAN BE SURE AN AUTOGRAPH COLLECTOR IS SIMPLY A BIG-NAME HUNTER. Today's Cryptogram clue: T equals W. The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.