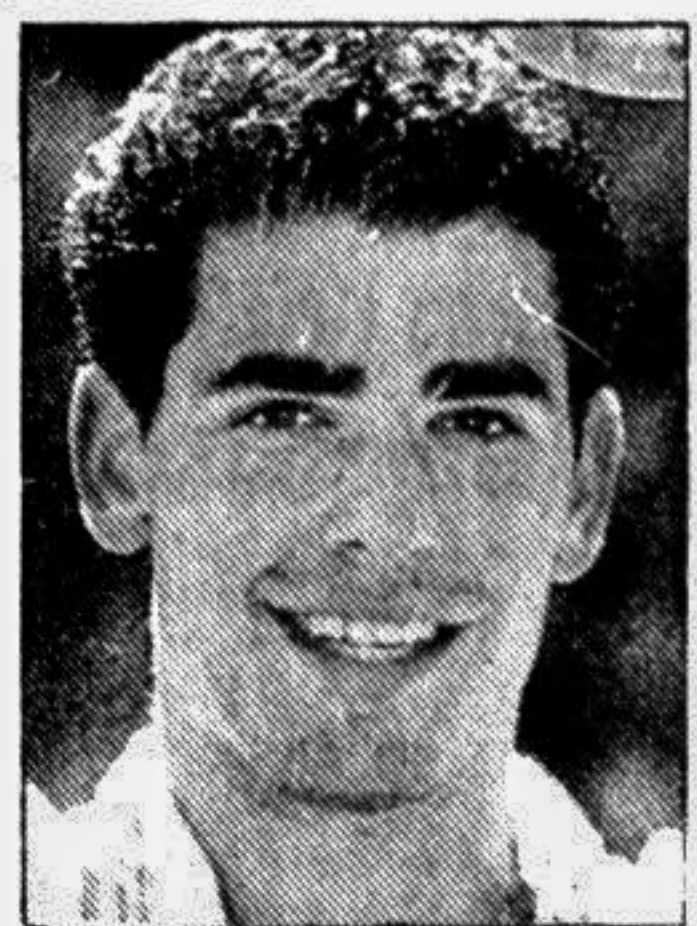


Sport

Column One
SPORTS TALK

Pete Sampras

(World No. 1 tennis player) "I see competition as the guy on the other side of the net trying to take the food off your plate. He's trying to win and make a living. So I kind of like it."

Boost sports
WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-87

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm on Jan 30, 1998

1 Which Kiwi batsman scored the only ODI century against Pakistan?

Cairns	Aslie	Crowe
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2 Which is the highest ODI individual score?

194	189	198
-----	-----	-----

3 How many ODI centuries has Azharuddin hit?

3	4	5
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4 Who scored the only half-century for Bangladesh in the Independence Cup?

Aminul	Akram	Mahmud
--------	-------	--------

5 Who is leading Bangladesh in the World Youth Cup cricket in South Africa?

Sabbir	Al-Sharar	Sajal
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Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

EN-VITS

Coach with the magic wand

MELBOURNE, Jan 18 (AFP) — If anyone beats Pete Sampras at the Australian Open this week it will be probable that Tony Pickard played a hand in the result.

The 63-year-old English coach put the turbo in Greg Rusedski's charge up the men's rankings to number six, having already rejuvenated Petr Korda, the current world number seven from the Czech Republic.

Rusedski is one of the players Sampras most fears now and Korda beat the world number one at the last US Open and took him to a five-set thriller at Wimbledon.

Pickard was in retirement after finishing with Korda when he got a call from Rusedski just days after he lost the final of the US Open to Australian's Pat Rafter in September.

Rusedski surprised everyone by dumping former coach Brian Teacher and Pickard was also stunned to be approached by the biggest server in the game.

"I was finished. I was done ... it came right out of the blue," said Pickard, a former British Davis Cup player who made his name as the architect of Stefan Edberg's success in the 1980s.

The Canadian-born Rusedski, now Britain's number one player, set the all-time fastest serve of 230.10 kilometres (142.89 miles) per hour in the US Open final. But his back-court play was a major weakness.

"His ground strokes have improved tremendously since then. We have done a few things and his game has improved in all directions," said Pickard.

"I've never seen anyone so ambitious as Greg. He's willing to work his head off and is so keen to improve."

The Englishman plans to spend between four and five months with the 24-year-old Rusedski this year "to get him where I think he should be."

And that includes winning one of the big four titles. "Before Christmas in England he virtually got every award which was going, which is great, but I said to him it would be nice to win one (Grand Slam)."

Rusedski says he is anxious to improve and is concentrating on "making my game more aggressive."

And he believes that Sampras can be beaten.

Pete is one of the greatest players ever, but I think we are catching him up. I'm sure one of us in the pack will catch him one day soon. Hopefully it's me."

Pickard guided Edberg to six Grand Slam triumphs over 11 years.

The super-coach said the Swede had lacked self-belief and slipped into bouts of depression when the going was tough.

Sri Lanka sweep the series

Aravinda, Arjuna undefeated



COLOMBO, Jan 18 (AFP, AP) — Skipper Aravinda Ranatunga and his deputy Aravinda de Silva laboured here today to push Sri Lanka to a five-wicket win over Zimbabwe and clinch the two-test series 2-0.

Ranatunga made an unbeaten 87 in more than five hours while de Silva remained not out at 143, his first century against Zimbabwe and 16th in his career.

The home side seemed to be in a precarious position when two wickets fell quickly on Saturday and the overnight score was at 209 for five while chasing a target of 326 to win. They

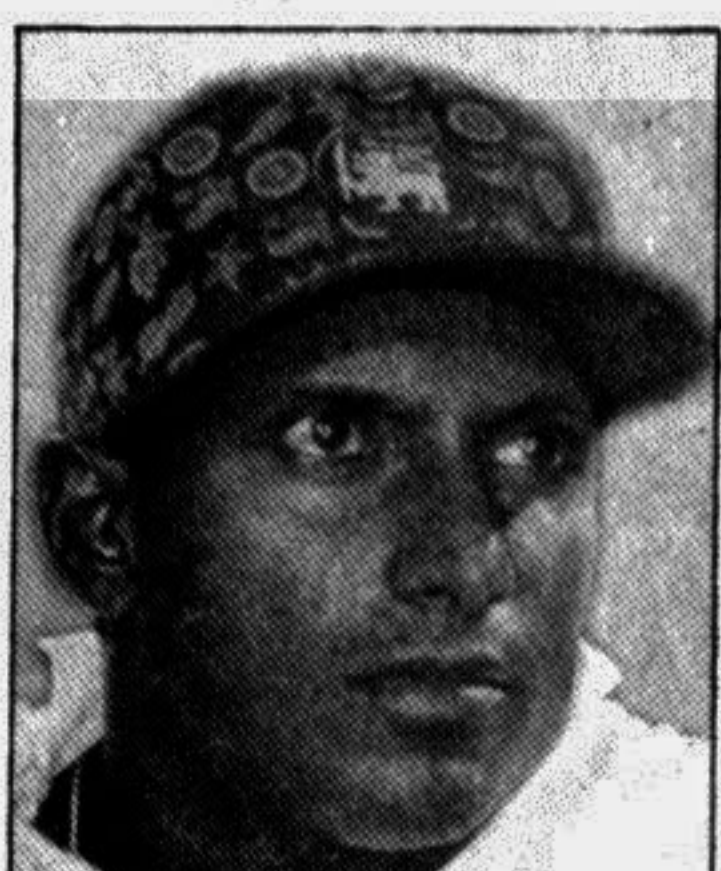


RANATUNGA ... 87 n.o

were 267 at lunch. Zimbabwe skipper Alistair Campbell said the two matches were useful for his side which showed signs of improvement throughout.

"It was a good game of cricket. I think both sides are pretty well balanced," Campbell said. "I don't think we played all that badly and Sri Lanka did not play all that well."

He said his team will use the



De SILVA ... p-o-m

experience from the two Tests in the one-day series which opens here on Thursday.

Ranatunga said he was encouraged by the stroke play of Aravinda who hit the winning boundary to the mid-wicket fence nearly half an hour before the scheduled tea break.

De Silva was named the player-of-the-match while Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan was chosen player-of-the-series for his haul of 17 wickets.

The latest win was Sri Lanka's 11th Test success in 81 matches and the fourth over Zimbabwe in seven meetings.

Sri Lanka cruised to victory in the 50th over of the day. Between them Ranatunga and De Silva, they established a new series record for the sixth wicket.

Their stand was worth 189 runs and bettered the previous 143 between Romesh Kaluwitharana and Ranatunga in Colombo in 1995-96. De Silva hit 16 boundaries and two sixes in 459 minutes at the crease.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the last day of

the second and final Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe on Sunday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings 251

SRI LANKA: First innings 225

SRI LANKA: Second innings (209 for five overnight)

Jayasuriya c Flower b Streak 68

A Jayapatt c A Flower b Streak 0

Maharaj c b Mbhangwa 0

Aravinda not out 143

Tillekeratne lbw Streak 0

Kaluwitharana c Campbell b Streak 87

Ranatunga not out 87

Extras: (b-11, lb-13) 24

Total: (for five wks) 326

Fall of wks: 1-1; 2-10; 3-115; 4-115; 5-137.

Bowling: O M R W

MURALITHARAN ... p-o-s

Streak 24 5 84 4

A Mbhangwa 14 4 34 1

Whittall 43 10 93 0

P Strang 24 4 75 0

G Whittall 7 1 12 0

Goodwin 0.5 0 4 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by five wickets and the two-test series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Aravinda de Silva.

Player-of-the-series: Muttiah Muralitharan.



MARAUDING: Ijaz Ahmed who blasted his way to 117 of only 111 balls whacks debutant Rahul Sanghvi through point.

— Star photo

Aussie Open starts today



MELBOURNE, Jan 18 (AFP) — The new tennis stars of the world, led by sisters Venus and Serena Williams, are set to dominate the first day of the Australian Open on Monday.

Centre Court has been reserved for the Williams girls and 16-year-old Australian Lleyton Hewitt who stunned the tennis world by winning the Australian Hardcourt Championship this month. The trio get equal billing with men's number one Pete Sampras and home favourite Mark Philippoussis.

All the top players were out for final practice today for the 6.5 million US dollars Grand Slam, now in its 10th year at Melbourne Park.

With Martina Hingis now women's number one, the rise of the teen stars has shaken some tour veterans and the absence of Steffi Graf, Monica Seles and Jana Novotna means the hard hitting youngsters are brimming with confidence.

"We are not nervous about this at all. People know us, this is going to be the year of the Williams," said 17-year-old Venus.

Hewitt, the third youngest player to win a men's tour title and the youngest in the men's proceedings, will start Centre Court proceedings against Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic.

Then Serena Williams, 16, starts her first Grand Slam against sixth seed Irina Spirlea of Romania. Sister Venus beat Spirlea in last year's US Open semifinal in an acrimonious encounter.

Venus, unseeded but third favourite with bookmakers, takes her turn in the show court against Alexia Dechaume Balleret of France.

If both Williams win, then Asprilla moves back to Parma

ITALY, Jan 18: AC Parma will re-acquire flashy Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla from Premier league club Newcastle for 18 billion lire (10.5 million dollars), Italian newspapers reported Thursday, reports AP.

Parma shipped the mercurial player to Newcastle in February, 1996, for 17 billion lire.

they will play each other in the second round.

And though the claws are not fully extended yet, it is clear that Venus Williams is looking for a fight with fellow 17-year-old Hingis in the battle to be number one.

She beat Hingis in Sydney last week and insists the Swiss star is vulnerable. "People have seen her play and a lot of the girls are stronger than her and they can manipulate that, a lot of the girls are faster than her."

Venus admits, however, that Hingis is "smarter."

If the Williams family challenge fizzles out, there is still the 16-year-old Russian Anna Kournikova, and 15-year-old Croat Mirjana Lucic at the head of a pack waiting for their chance.

Lindsay Davenport, the second seed who starts against Amelie Cochetout of France on court two, is only 21 but admitted after losing to Serena Williams in Sydney that she felt middle aged against the "incredible generation" on the tour.

Amanda Coetzer, ranked fourth in the world, lost to Lucic in her first tournament last year. Lucic went on to win her debut event while Coetzer now says she can see the writing on the wall.

"There's always been the stronger, taller girls, but I've never seen so many athletic,

strong tall girls," said the 26-year-old South African.

"I definitely feel the need to have a little more power to stand my ground. I think I'm still quite competitive at the top. But it's going to be a challenge for me over the next few years."

On the men's front Pete Sampras, who plays world number 51 Sieng Schalken of the Netherlands, said he was happy to let the teenagers monopolise attention.

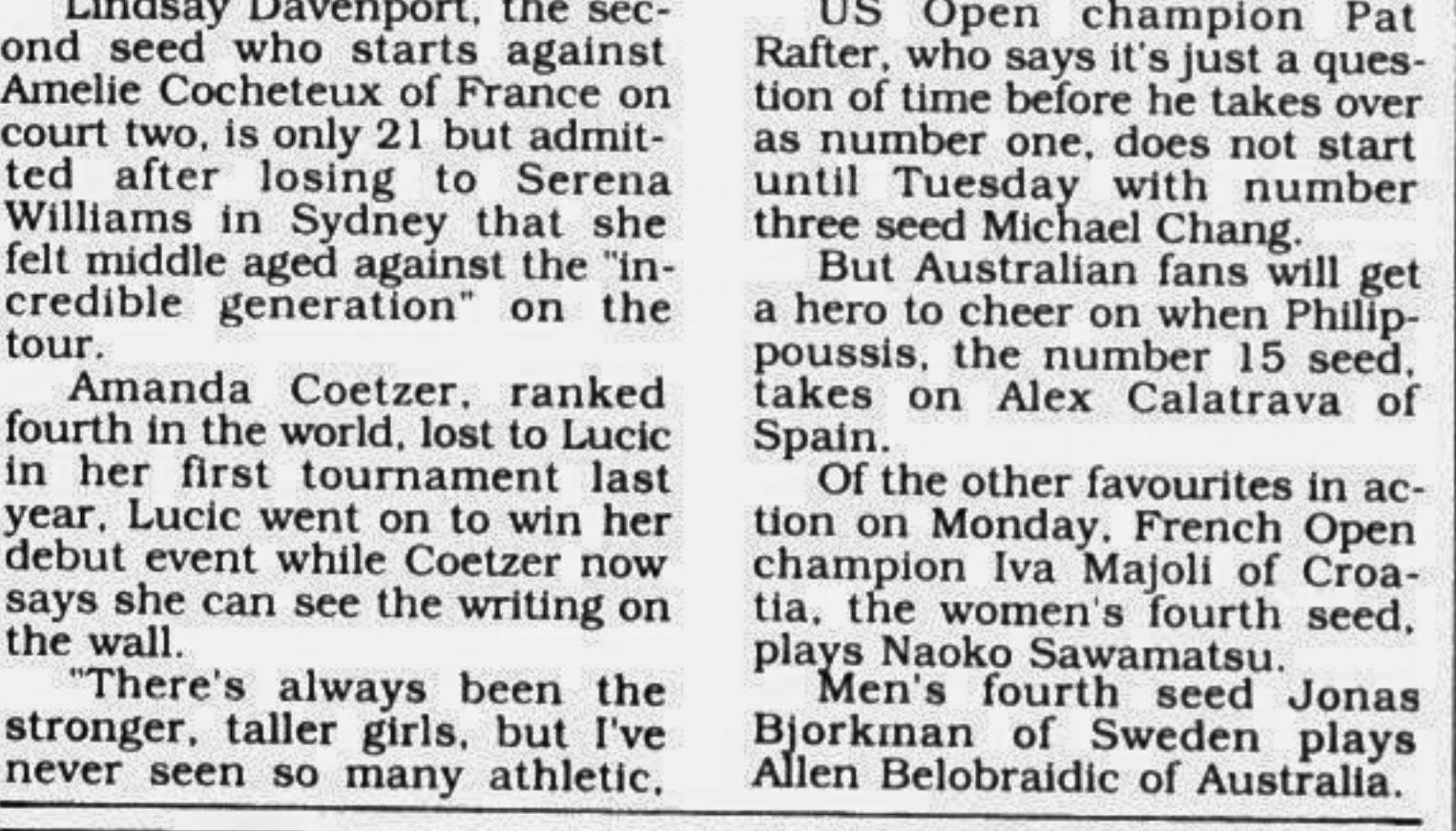
At 26, the American is an oldie but reckons he could top the rankings for at least another two years despite a recent injury and two defeats in the Kooyong Classic last week, he says he is "fresh" and seems to be hitting the ball with his usual ferocity.

US Open champion Pat Rafter, who says it's just a question of time before he takes over as number one, does not start until Tuesday with number three seed Michael Chang.

But Australian fans will get a hero to cheer on when Philippoussis, the number 15 seed, takes on Alex Calatrava of Spain.

Of the other favourites in action on Monday, French Open champion Iva Majoli of Croatia, the women's fourth seed, plays Naoko Sawamatsu.

Men's fourth seed Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden plays Allen Belobraidic of Australia.



The Indian cricket team had a dinner-cum-planning session at 'Shenai, a restaurant in the Banani area, on Saturday on the eve of the Independence Cup final.

— Star photo

Bordeaux abase Aubervilliers

PARIS, Jan 18: Bosnian defender Muhamed Kojnic saved champions Monaco from an embarrassing first round result against Fourth Division Dijon in the French Cup on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Kojnic scored seven minutes into extra time after Monaco managed only a 1-1 draw after 90 minutes.

The 2-1 win came as relief for Monaco who had lost their last three matches.

Midfielder Sylvain Legwiniski opened the scoring in the 16th minute, Franck Reimonnet equalised after 78 minutes.

Strasbourg, who boast wins over Glasgow Rangers, Liverpool and Inter Milan in the UEFA Cup this season, did not escape embarrassment, losing 2-1 to Third Division Epinal after having defender Jean-Luc Dogon sent off in the 16th minute.

Strasbourg took the lead on the hour through Garald Baticle.

But their joy was short-lived. Epinal equalised in the 75th minute through Condi and Wiske scored their winner in the last minute.

Auxerre, the 1996 champions, also had a fright when they found themselves 1-0 down to amateur side Segre after 20 minutes.

Segre's lead lasted only two minutes, Thierry Marchand scoring an own goal, and leading First Division marksmen Stephane Guivarch netted Auxerre's winner in the 38th minute.

Bordeaux had no such problems with amateur opposition as they crushed Aubervilliers 7-1. Sylvain Wittord scored four and Jean-Pierre Papin three.

Toulouse, beaten 1-0 by Second Division Caen 1-0 on Friday, and Le Havre, who lost 2-1 at Lens in an all-First Division clash, were the other teams from the top flight to bow in the first round.

Day belongs to the hosts

PERTH, Jan 18: Olympic champion Susie O'Neill of Australia won the women's 200-metre butterfly event at the World Championships Sunday in a meet record time, reports AP.

O'Neill, 24, caught early leader Misty Hyman about 60 metres from the finish and clocked 2 minutes 7.93 seconds. She went under the championships record of 2:08.41 set by American Mary T. Meagher in 1986.

Hyman faded to third in 2:09.98 and was passed in the stretch by Petria Thomas who took the silver in 2:09.08.

Hyman started the race with a 25-metre submarine start, a move which will be outlawed in March.

Grant Hackett continued Australia's great record in the 1500-metre freestyle event by winning the gold medal in the third fastest time ever.

With world record holder and Olympic champion Kieren Perkins failing to make Australia's team, the 17-year-old Hackett stepped up to carry his country's hopes.

He maintained a steady pace to win in 14 minutes, 51.70 and became only the eighth swimmer to break 15 minutes for the event.

The first to achieve the mark, Russia's former Olympic champion Vladimir Salnikov, was in the stands to watch the final.

Only Parkins and Germany's Jorg Hoffmann have gone faster.

European champion Emiliano Brembilla took over from Australian Daniel Kowalski just before the 800-metre mark and placed second in 15:00.59.

Kowalski, the silver medalist behind Parkins at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, was put under pressure late in the race but held on for third in 15:03.94.

FACTFILE

MELBOURNE, Jan 18 (Reuters): Close to 400,000 tennis fans are expected to flock to the 1998 Australian Open from Monday to February 1, the first Grand Slam event of the year.

This is the 86th championship and the 11th year it is being staged at Melbourne Park, near the centre of Australia's second largest city.

The Open has been held in Melbourne since 1972 it was initially played on grass at the small Kooyong Club at a new stadium was built in 1988 after warnings the tournament was in danger of losing its Grand Slam status.

Played on a rebound ace hardcourt surface, the event this year will use harder tennis balls than last year, when big servers complained the soft balls were causing wrist and elbow injuries.

Other Australian Open features:

- Defending singles champions are Pete Sampras of the United States and Swiss teenager Martina Hingis.

- Defending doubles champions are Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge, Martina Hingis/Natalia Zvereva and Manon Billerau/Rick Leach.

- A 10 million dollars (US 6.4 million dollars) prize money.

- Centre Court Stadium has retractable roof and seating for 15,000.

- Four new courts, with total seating for 13,100.

- 19 outdoor match courts.

- Five indoor practice courts.

- If temperature rises above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), the stadium roof over Centre Court may be closed and outdoor play suspended after matches in progress are completed.

- 23 sessions of play, 14 days and nine nights.



Pakistani master bat Saeed Anwar fails to make contact while attempting a sweep during yesterday's nerve-wrecker against India at the Dhaka Stadium.

— Star photo

Anwar's fine fifteen

Date	Runs	Against	Venue
Feb 17, 1990	126	SL	Adelaide
Nov 2, 1990	101	NZ	Lahore
Feb 4, 1993	101	SL	Sharjah
Oct 30, 1993	107	SL	Sharjah
Nov 1, 1993	131	WI	Sharjah
Nov 2, 1993	111	SL	Sharjah
Oct 22, 1994	104*	Ausle	Rawalpindi
Feb 22, 1995	103*	ZIM	Harare
Oct 4, 1996	115	SL	Nairobi
Nov 11, 1996	104*	NZ	Sharjah
Nov 12, 1996	112	SL	Sharjah
May 21, 1997	194	IND	Madras
Nov 4, 1997	108*	WI	Lahore
Dec 14, 1997	104	IND	Sharjah
Jan 18, 1998	140	IND	Dhaka

Proteas prove a point



PERTH, Jan 18: South Africa gained a psychological edge ahead of the tri-series limited-overs, finals by handing Australia a dismissive seven-wicket hiding today, reports Reuters.

The visitors overhauled Australia's modest total of 165 all out in 48.2 overs with ease, reaching their target in fitting fashion with a six over cover point from captain Hansie Cronje.

The Proteas scored 170 for three in 28.2 overs to win with 130 balls to spare at the WACA ground.

Adding to Australia's troubles, one-day captain Steve Waugh collected a sixth consecutive batting failure since taking over the job from Mark Taylor this season after winning the toss.

Waugh was dismissed for a first-ball duck by fast bowler Allan Donald, taking the veteran all-rounder's tally of runs to just 12 in six innings.

In contrast, South Africa's top-order batsmen dominated Australia's inexperienced bowling attack in the last meeting between the two teams before the start of the best-of-three final in Melbourne on Friday.

Cronje, whose side have beaten Australia four times on the trot in the competition, remained unbeaten at the finish on 39 from just 25 balls alongside Daryll Cullinan on 35 not out.

The South Africans fielded a full-strength side, recalling Donald, wicketkeeper Dave Richardson and all-rounder Brian McMillan after all three were rested for their last game.

Australia opted to take the opposite approach, giving leg-spinner Shane Warne and seam bowler Paul Reiffel the day off.

In addition to removing Waugh, player-of-the-match Donald took three more wickets

in an outstanding display to finish with figures of four for 31 in 9.2 overs.

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