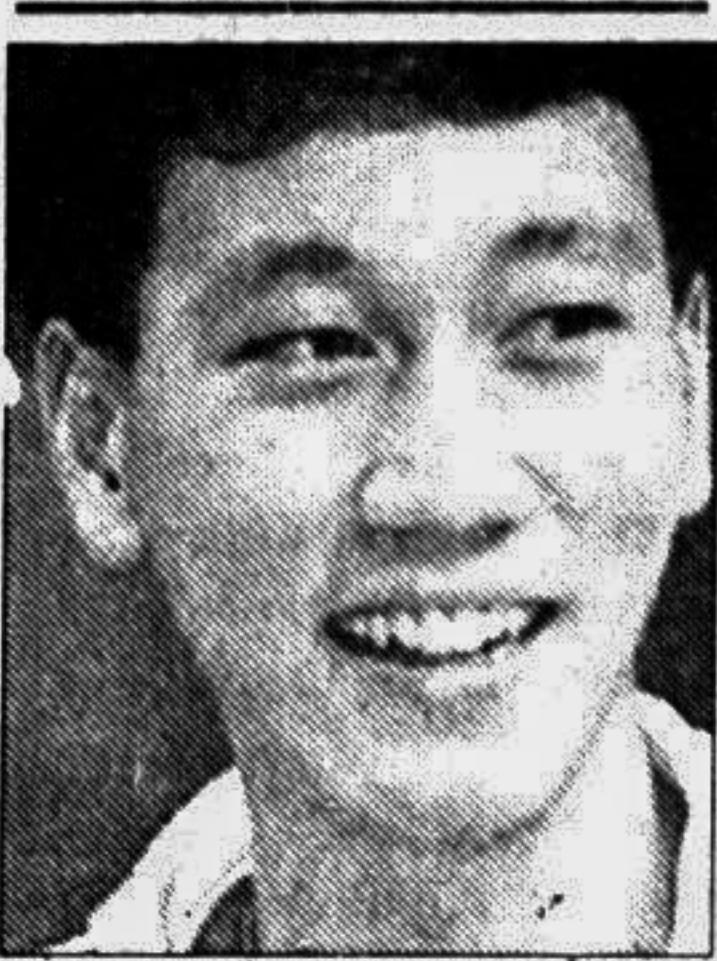


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Michael Chang

(American tennis player)
"It's fair to say in the past few months, tenniswise, I've been struggling. I feel in my heart that the hunger is still there. The fire is not just a spark, it's still burning."

After losing to French Guillaume Raoux in the second round at the Australian Open.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-87

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm on Jan 30, 1998

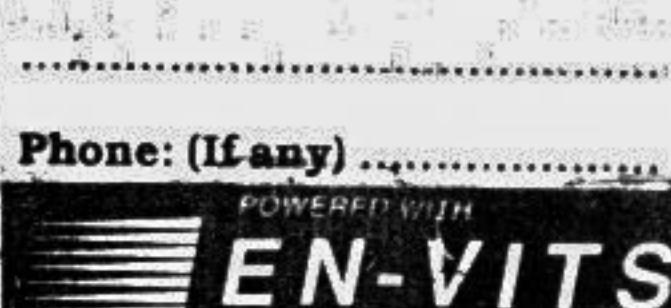
1	Which Kiwi batsman scored the only ODI century against Pakistan?	Cairns	Aslett	Crowe
2	Which is the highest ODI individual score?	194	189	198
3	How many ODI centuries has Azharuddin hit?	3	4	5
4	Who scored the only half-century for Bangladesh in the Independence Cup?	Aminul	Akram	Mahmud
5	Who is leading Bangladesh in the World Youth Cup cricket in South Africa?	Sabbir	Al-Sharif	Sajal

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Boycott hooks & ducks!

LONDON, Jan 23: English cricket legend Geoff Boycott mounted a vigorous defense here Thursday in the face of accusations that he beat up his ex-lover Margaret Moore, reports AFP.

Moore alleges he pinned her down and punched her at least 20 times in the face after an argument in a hotel in the south of France in October 1996.

A French judge agreed with her and gave Boycott, 57, a suspended jail sentence and fined him 5,100 pounds (8,000 dollars) two days ago.

Now Boycott is to appeal against the verdict and slammed Moore's version of events, claiming that she is intent on destroying his reputation because he refused to marry her.

At a heated press conference, the embattled Yorkshireman said businesswoman Moore, 45, was bent on making money out of the allegations.

He said: "I never touched her. I have no history of violence in 57 years on anyone, a man or woman. That is a fact."

The former England cricket captain said Moore had approached publicist Max Clifford and asked him to make her one million pounds from her story.

"It all hinged around me marrying her. I got sick and tired of it all and I told her that I am not the marrying kind."

"She can't have marriage, she can't get money, she wants to destroy me. It's as Shakespeare said 'hell hath no fury like a woman scorned'."

Boycott claimed that he and Mrs Moore had drunk champagne with American rock star Billy Joel the night after he allegedly attacked her.

But he said it was "nonsense" that he had left her to pay a huge hotel bill and added: "I spent two more nights with her. We then flew home on the same plane on the Friday night to London."

He said the argument began when Mrs Moore discovered he was checking out of the hotel and wanted to fly back to London.

"She went absolutely berserk, she went out onto a ledge of a window and said 'well, I might as well commit suicide'."

He went on to claim that she started throwing his clothes out of the window and said, "I went to restrain her, she started hitting and kicking me and in the grappling we slipped."

"I hit my left elbow, she caught the right side of her head and if you look at those photographs you will see there is a bump on the right side of her temple."

Pakistan leave for SA tomorrow

Latif promises a face-lift

KARACHI, Jan 23: Pakistan skipper Rashid Latif pledged today that his team's upcoming 10-week tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe would be free from match-fixing allegations, reports AFP.

"I am here to keep the boys away from these allegations and bring back the confidence not only in the team but also among cricket fans," Latif said.

"I promise the trip will be controversy-free," the 28-year-old wicketkeeper said.

The team is to leave for Johannesburg on Sunday for the two and a half month assignment to play three Test matches against South Africa.

They will then visit Zimbabwe for two Test matches and two one-day internationals and return to South Africa to participate in a triangular tournament which also involves Sri Lanka.

Latif, who walked out on the team three years ago during the South African tour, said he wanted to shed bitter past memories during this trip.

"I want to bury those memories during our trip with the entertaining and positive cricket. I assure ... the cricket loving crowd of South Africa will enjoy the game, no matter who wins or loses," he said.

Latif found himself in the throes of controversy when he spoke of "something seriously wrong" in the Pakistan team during the last tour to South Africa and Zimbabwe in 1994.

Latif and teammate Basit Ali announced their retirement but reversed their decision in 1995 after cricket board official intervened.

Then allegations by Australians Shane Warne and Tim May against Salim Malik ensured the spin duo alleged Malik offered them bribes to bowl poorly and lose at Test at Karachi prior to the African tour in 1994.

Malik was exonerated by a committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge in 1995, but he is currently out of the team since renewed allegations of betting in September last year.

"Match-fixing, betting and off-field problems crept up when we were in South Africa last time but we will end it in the same place," Latif said.

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Pakistan skipper Rashid Latif talking to the press on the eve of his team's tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe, at Karachi on Jan 22. — AP/UNB photo

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