

Column One

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 Astle 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 Akam Mahmud

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

Sabir Al-Shariq Sajal

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Mike Brearley

(Former England cricket captain)

"A winning skipper is one who has a passion for tactics, has the ability to apply psychological pressures and is good at both individual and team psychology."

ACA serves
a major
threat

SYDNEY, Jan 25: Leading Australian cricketers may boycott the upcoming seven-week tour of India unless a dispute with pay and conditions is resolved, a weekend newspaper reported.

Talks between the players and their Australian Cricket Board (ACB) have been on hold since a threatened players strike was narrowly averted two months ago.

The players union, the Australian Cricket Association (ACA) said in October that they want to bring international and Sheffield Shield players in line with other professional sportsmen.

The ACB says the claims are not on. Talks have broken down twice since and the warning sides have not formally met since late December. No further meetings are scheduled.

Privately, neither side expects an early resolution, the Sydney Morning Herald said today, with the players considering further direct action, including a boycott of the Indian tour as a last resort.

ACA president Tim May would not comment on the chance of a boycott, citing an agreement with the board to keep all their dealings confidential.

Australian players were on the verge of striking during the second Test against New Zealand in Perth last November, before the ACA executive pulled back for fear of how such action would be treated by the

The very idea of a strike by Australian Test stars has reportedly roused keen interest in other countries, with player bodies in the West Indies and England expressing empathy.

Australia are due to start their three-Test tour of India on February 20.

Osaka marathon
Lidia's

OSAKA, Jan 25: World bronze medalist Lidia Simion of Romania overtook defending race champion Katrin Dorre of Germany in the last kilometre to win the Osaka international women's marathon today, reports AFP.

It was the 24-year-old Romanian's fourth victory in a full marathon and the first since Lyon in 1994.

Pakistan leave for SA today

Greats rally behind Wasim

KARACHI Jan 25:

The Pakistan team prepared to leave for South Africa and Zimbabwe today on a 10-week tour already marred by protests over the ouster of world-class pacer Wasim Akram; reports AFP.

"I find it hard to understand that a player of Akram's ability has been axed from the team on fitness grounds," cricket star-turned-politician Imran Khan said.

Akram is a "great" cricketer and "doors for such a player should always remain open," Mohammad said. "This is not good for Pakistan team."

The Pakistan team is to leave late today to play three Test matches against South Africa.

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

Latif and team coach Haroon Rashid said they had to play with the available team and hoped to see exciting encounters.

"We will play positive cricket in front of the South African crowd."

Akram, who was recently in England to finalise details of his benefit year with Lancashire, expressed shock over the decision.

"I am shocked that I have been dropped from the side. Neither the chief executive nor anyone from PCB bothered to inform me that I have been dropped from the side," first class cricketer Sajid Khan quoted Akram as having said.

"It is sad, there is nothing wrong with my bowling. In fact I have been bowling quite well recently. In the last five Test matches I bagged 25 wickets," Akram said.

Before his departure to England, Akram said his decision not to captain Pakistan was because he and his family had received threats from anonymous phone callers and added he

would continue to play for Pakistan as an ordinary player.

"I have served Pakistan with pride and I believe that I can serve the country for the next two to three years."

Akram played 77 Test matches for Pakistan taking 334 wickets and in 238 one-day matches where his tally reached 341 wickets.

Akram's ouster also sparked anger among cricket fans.

"Everywhere he is treated as a great player and here these demigods of cricket are trying



HANIF MOHAMMAD

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to humiliate him. This is disgusting. They (board officials) should bring him back," said cricketer San Ahmed Shah.

Sending the team without Wasim to South Africa is like sending a boxer without gloves. There will be no punch, why do they want to make team a punchbag?" said another cricket fan Mushtaq Ali.

"We believe here is going to bowl out the board as he bowls out opponents in the cricket field. He is a great fighter," he added.

Hollieko has his right-arm in a sling after undergoing treatment on a dislocated joint in his shoulder.

He was injured in a fielding tumble trying to stop a shot from West Indies A batsman Keith Semple at Chedwin Park on Friday and is in doubt for the series opener, which starts at Sabina Park next Thursday.

"It is too soon after the injury to say if he will play, but his chances are better than 50-50," said Morton.

Hollieko said he was desperately upset by the setback.

"I wasn't expecting something like this to happen. Everything was going well, but these things are sent to try you," he said.

"You can sit around and talk, but if the same ball came I'd dive for it again."

England's management are now faced with a delicate balancing act — to decide whether Hollieko faces the danger of aggravating the injury in the first Test and thus perhaps cause problems for later in the series.

Queensland's strength lies in its ability to articulate Islamic concepts. Last year, Prince Charles accepted that the western world can learn from Islam during his speech at the Oxford Union. But how can this happen if the group that is in to best position to project Islam gets its attitudes from the west and considers Islam backward? Islam is a universal religion and that is why our Prophet (PBUH) was called a mercy for all mankind.

The Death of Lady Diana was very touching and was felt by all races and religions. As far as I would like to comment on the subject is that she had great interest and admiration for the religion of Islam. She would always be inquisitive about it.

After my marriage to Jemima she saw the wonders of Islam and how it had reformed Haifa. As I hope, it has made the world realise that marriage to Dodi was not to be by the grace of Allah. Maybe it would have been a great threat to the West of Lady Diana.

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The victory lifted Queensland into equal second in the Shield table alongside New South Wales on 20 points, two points behind leaders Western Australia.

Queensland scored 408 in their first innings, including a maiden first-class century by pace bowler Andy Bichel, before dismissing the visitors for 170.

Queensland fast bowler Michael Kasprowicz took four for 22 to press his claim for selection in Australia's side for the third Test against South Africa, starting in Adelaide on January 30.

Victoria captain and wicket-keeper Darren Berry described the defeat as the worst in his nine-year first-class career.

Victoria remained second from bottom in the Shield standings with six points.

Harkes may return to England

BANGALORE, Jan 25: Three representatives of South Zone selection committee have strongly criticised what they described as the crude fashion in which the India A' cricket team to tour Pakistan next month has been chosen and blamed the national selectors of "favouritism" and "unimaginative work," reports PTI.

In a letter, signed by VV Kumar, Brijesh Patel and OK Ramdas to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), they have taken exception to non-selection of Test discards pointing out that performances of players like Amol Mazumdar and S Sharath were ignored.

Harkes, who played the full 90 minutes in the 1-0 US victory over Sweden in a friendly Saturday, said Sheffield Wednesday manager Ron Atkinson had contacted his agent to get the player until the end of April on a loan or a transfer.

Sport

Tri-series

Second final
rained off

SYDNEY, Jan 25: Many in a crowd of 35,000 vented their anger at a decision to call off the second tri-series limited overs cricket final between Australia and South Africa on Sunday, reports AP.

The Sydney Cricket Ground Trust and the New South Wales Cricket Association wanted the match called off on Sunday morning when heavy rain fell, but the Australian Cricket Board refused.

The public was kept waiting and was told there would be an early-evening start and that it would be reduced to 25 overs a side from the scheduled 50.

But 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the match, the two captains voiced their concerns over the state of the ground to the umpires and match referee Ranjan Madugalle.

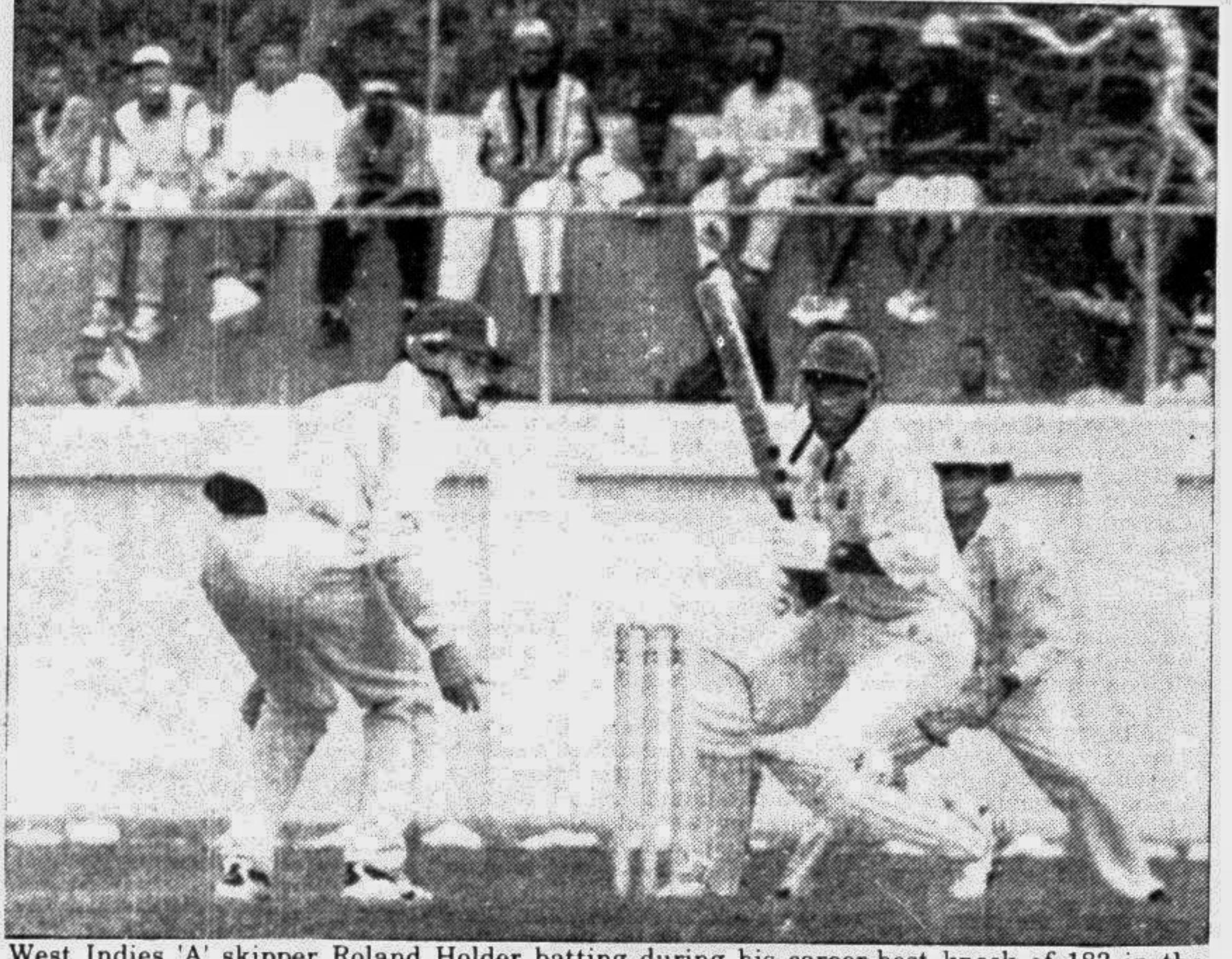
The match will now be played Monday, with South Africa leading 1-0 in the best-of-three series. A deciding match would be played Tuesday if Australia win on Monday.

Heavy overnight rain and further showers in the morning left the ground under deluge and even a new drainage system failed to soak up the surface water.

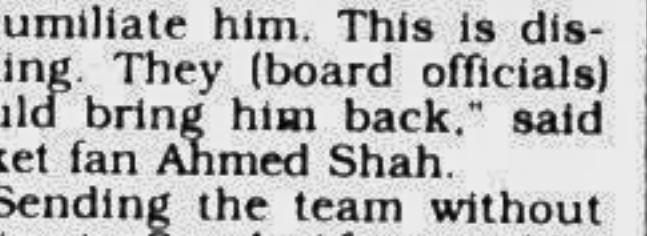
A section of the sell-out crowd threatened the security of the venue after it was announced the game had been postponed to the reserve day.

Keeping in mind the utmost safety of the players I think it was a good decision, Australian captain Steve Waugh said.

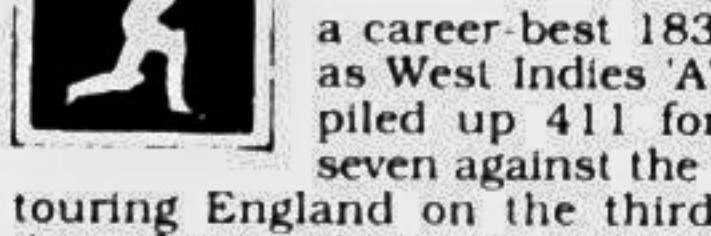
Holder's fine knock



HANIF MOHAMMAD



IMRAN KHAN



STE CATHERINE, Jan 25: Barbadian Roland Holder hit a career-best 183 as West Indies A' piled up 411 for seven against the home team.

Holder and Hoyte put on 91 for the sixth wicket before wicketkeeper Hoyte was caught behind off left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell for 33.

But Williams filled the breach admirably, adding an even 100 with his session partner. The 29-year-old Williams finished the day with an undefeated 50.

Holder eventually fell half hour before the end, pacer Andy Caddick picking up the wicket. Holder's only let-off came one run earlier when Tufnell dropped a return chance.

Towards the close, Nixon McLean opened his shoulders to blaze his way to 24 not out. The powerful left-hander hit two big sixes off Caddick and one four.

Fraser, with four for 81 off 32 overs, was the best of the England bowlers and virtually sealed his spot for the opening Test starting Thursday at Sabina Park. He will fill the third seamer's role alongside Caddick and Dean Headley.

The match concludes Sunday.

Vieira blasts
Iranian FA

TEHRAN, Jan 25: Valdeir Vieira, who took Iran to the World Cup finals at Australia's expense before being replaced last week, on Saturday slammed the Iranian federation, saying he was owed money and was being treated as a non-person.

"Not only are they not respecting the terms of my contract but now they do not even acknowledge my existence," Valdeir told AFP, adding that "I haven't even been paid yet."

The Brazilian said he would be looking for FIFA's support and had formally complained to the Iranian federation, who he said pretended "As if I just do not exist."

He denied Iranian media claims that he had been replaced because he had no longer term programme for the squad.

Vieira was replaced by Croat Tonislav Ivic, formerly coach of Croatia and United Arab Emirates.

Ivic will lead the Iranians this summer in their second World Cup campaign following their 1978 debut in Argentina.



SYDNEY, Jan 25: Australian one-day captain Steve Waugh, who has won just two of eight matches while in charge, could be forgiven for wishing his old mate Mark Taylor was still around, reports AP.

Waugh, 32, was given the job last month after the selectors opted for wholesale changes in the limited-over game and has not had a happy time.

Those changes included dropping of his old friend, Test captain Taylor, and wicket-keeper Ian Healy. And the moves so far have backfired.

Waugh then suffered a prolonged slump in form where he failed to reach double figures in six innings before finding his touch again in last week's one-day against New Zealand.

But his leadership skills are still a matter of concern. His decision at losing to South Africa in the opening one-day final in Melbourne on Friday was obvious for all to see.

His problems have not been helped by some of the headlines in the sports pages here recently.

"Waugh can't lead," screamed the Sunday Telegraph. "His bowling changes are erratic and his field placings lack proper placement and strategy," complained former Aussie Test great Keith Stackpole in a comment piece.

The Sun-Herald mused: "So how much pressure can the ice

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

