

Column One

Boost sports
WHIZZ KIDCOMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-87

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm
on Jan 30, 1998

- Which Kiwi batsman scored the only ODI century against Pakistan?
Cairns Astle Crowe
- Which is the highest ODI individual score?
194 189 198
- How many ODI centuries has Azharuddin hit?
3 4 5
- Who scored the only half-century for Bangladesh in the Independence Cup?
Aminal Akram Mahmud
- Who is leading Bangladesh in the World Youth Cup cricket in South Africa?
Sabir Al-Shariar 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 report said there, reports AFP.

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 warring 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 public.

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 Simb of Romania overtook defending race champion Katrin Dörre 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 cricket 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.



HANIF MOHAMMAD

Several other former Test cricketers also slammed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for dropping Akram from an important tour and termed the decision a big mistake.

Akram's absence will weaken the Pakistan bowling in South Africa, especially the hard and bouncy pitches which would have been suitable for him," said Imran, 44, who led Pakistan to 1992 World Cup victory.

"Akram is an automatic choice in any team," Imran

added. All-rounder Akram decided to quit as captain in December amid charges of match-fixing after the team's defeat in Sharjah.

Cricket legend Hanif Mohammad, also blaming the PCB, said Akram's ouster was based on "personal vendetta."

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 else 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



IMRAN KHAN

to humiliate him. This is disgusting. They (board officials) should bring him back," said cricket fan 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 Mushahid 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.

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.

Adam fighting
to be fit

KINGSTON, Jan 25: All-rounder Adam Hoolioake's chances of playing in the first Test against the West Indies were Saturday rated as better than 50-50 by England physiotherapist Wayne Morton, reports AFP.

Hoolioake 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.

Hoolioake 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 sulk, 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 Hoolioake faces the danger of aggravating the injury in the first Test and thus perhaps cause problems for later in the series.

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

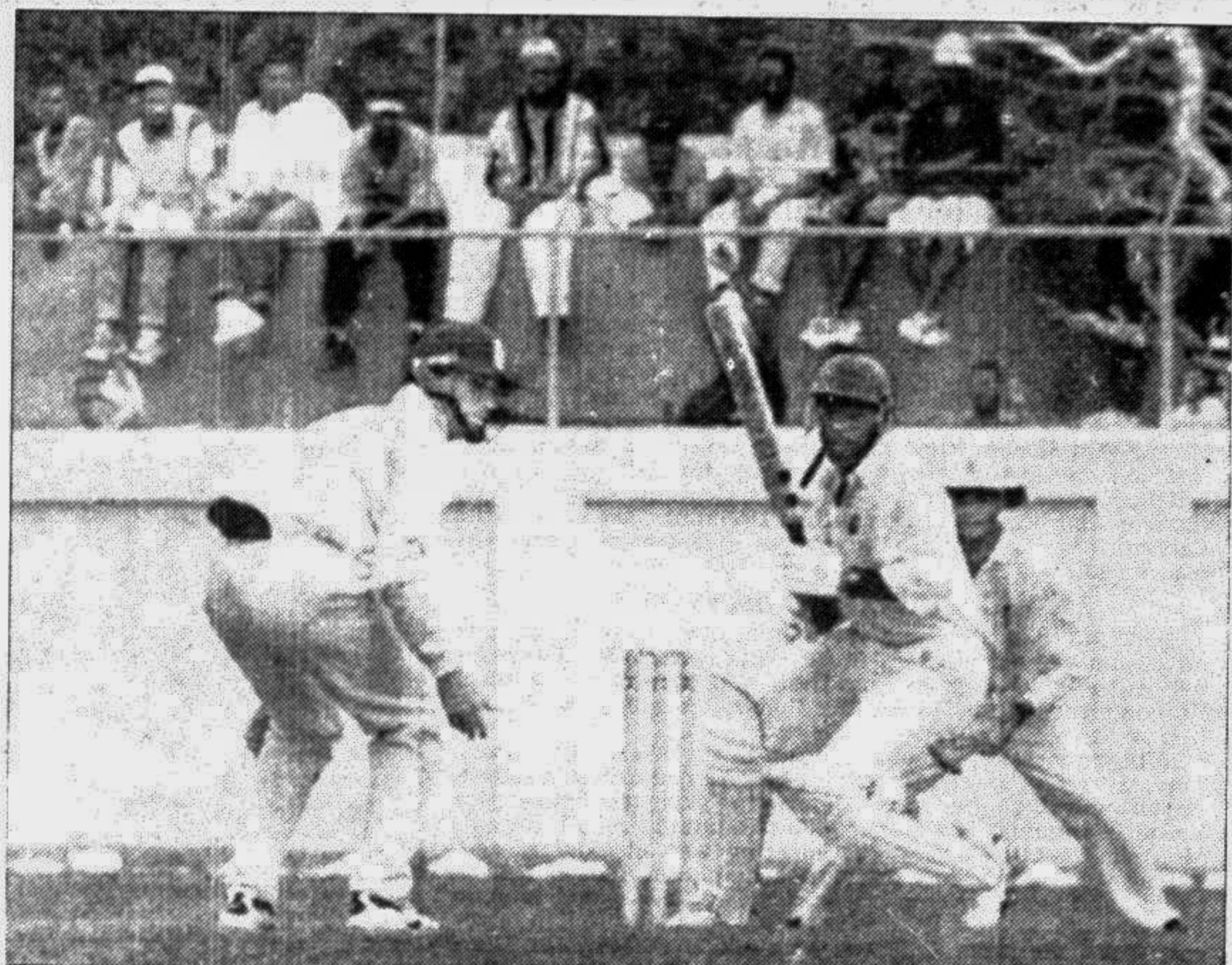
Waugh then suffered a prolonged slump in form where he failed to reach double figures in six innings before finding his touch again in last week's one-dayer against New Zealand.

But his leadership skills are still a matter of concern. His dejection 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 much pressure can the ice



West Indies 'A' skipper Roland Holder batting during his career-best knock of 183 in the four-day match against England at Chedwin Park, Jamaica on Jan 24. — AP/UNB photo

Holder's fine knock

ST CATHERINE, Jan 25: Barbadian Roland Holder hit a career-best 183 as West Indies 'A' piled up 411 for seven against the touring England on the third day of their four-day cricket match at Chedwin Park on Saturday, reports AP.

Holder, who resumed on 57, dominated the day before he was seventh out just before the close. The 30-year-old, who has played eight Tests, batted for 481 minutes, faced 363 balls and hit 27 boundaries.

West Indies 'A' overnight 156 for three in pursuit of England's first innings of 400 for eight declared, lost two early wickets in the morning session. Nightwatchman Rawl Lewis made 11 before he was caught off paceman Angus Fraser.

Fraser also claimed the wicket of left hander Floyd Reifer for a duck. Reifer batted with the discomfort of six stitches in his hand after being struck while fielding on the first day.

At 186 for five, England held the upper hand. B: Holder,

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 long term programme for the squad.

Vieira was replaced by Croat Tomislav 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.

Waugh may get a fair
crack of the whip

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 AFP.

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-dayer against New Zealand.

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

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

man stand". "I think I've improved in most games and I think Friday was my best performance as captain," Waugh responded when asked by reporters prior to the abandoned second one-day final at the Sydney Cricket Ground here today.

"I've learnt a lot this series." So much so that the Australian selectors are expected to show their confidence in Waugh and reappoint him for next month's New Zealand tour.

The three-man panel will late today meet to choose Australia's team for the third Test starting Friday in Adelaide and the four-game limited-over tournament against the Kiwis.

"Just because I've played 200 games people expect you to walk

in there and have no problems at all," Waugh said.

"Yes, it's a challenge and I'm enjoying it. Everyone says it can't be that enjoyable losing but that's what it's about at this level. You're not going to win all the time."

Waugh's record leaves no doubt about his claim to be one of the world's greatest batsmen and he is in no mood to give up now.

"I recall back in 1985 when we started winning it made it all the sweeter. That's what I'm looking forward to again."

He said injuries had not helped the campaign against the Proteas, who he described as the best one-day team in the world.

"It has been hard because we've had five or six top players injured. A lot of people have forgotten we haven't had Glenn McGrath for most of the series," he said.

Adam Dale, who's in the top two one-day bowlers in the country has been out, so has Mark (Waugh) for a couple of games."

He rightly pointed out that South Africa have had the full side on the park every game.

"We haven't had that luxury. Everyone has got an opinion but the bottom line is you've got to believe in what you're doing and have faith in the guys, and we've got that."

Australia play South Africa in their rescheduled second tri-series one-day final in Sydney on Monday.

STEVE WAUGH

Queensland
humble
Victoria

SYDNEY, Jan 25: Queensland humiliated Victoria by an innings and 140 runs in the Sheffield Shield today after claiming the last five wickets for just three runs, reports Reuters.

Pace bowler Adam Dale marked his return from an injury by taking five wickets for 19 as the Shield champions wrapped up an easy victory with almost two days to spare in Brisbane.

Resuming on 88 for five in their second innings, Victoria survived only 31 balls before being dismissed for 98 within the first 30 minutes of play at the Gabba today.

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 Kasprovic 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 wicketkeeper 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.

BCCI feels
South Zone's
wrath

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 Anil Mazumdar and S Sharath were ignored.

JEMIMA

even carrying an Islamic name, as she would have still been a mother of a future King. Only Allah knows the truth, but all I can say is that she like Prince Charles had a great interest in the religion. And the probability of Lady Diana reverting were excellent.

Courtesy: BICNews, Belfast Islamic Centre

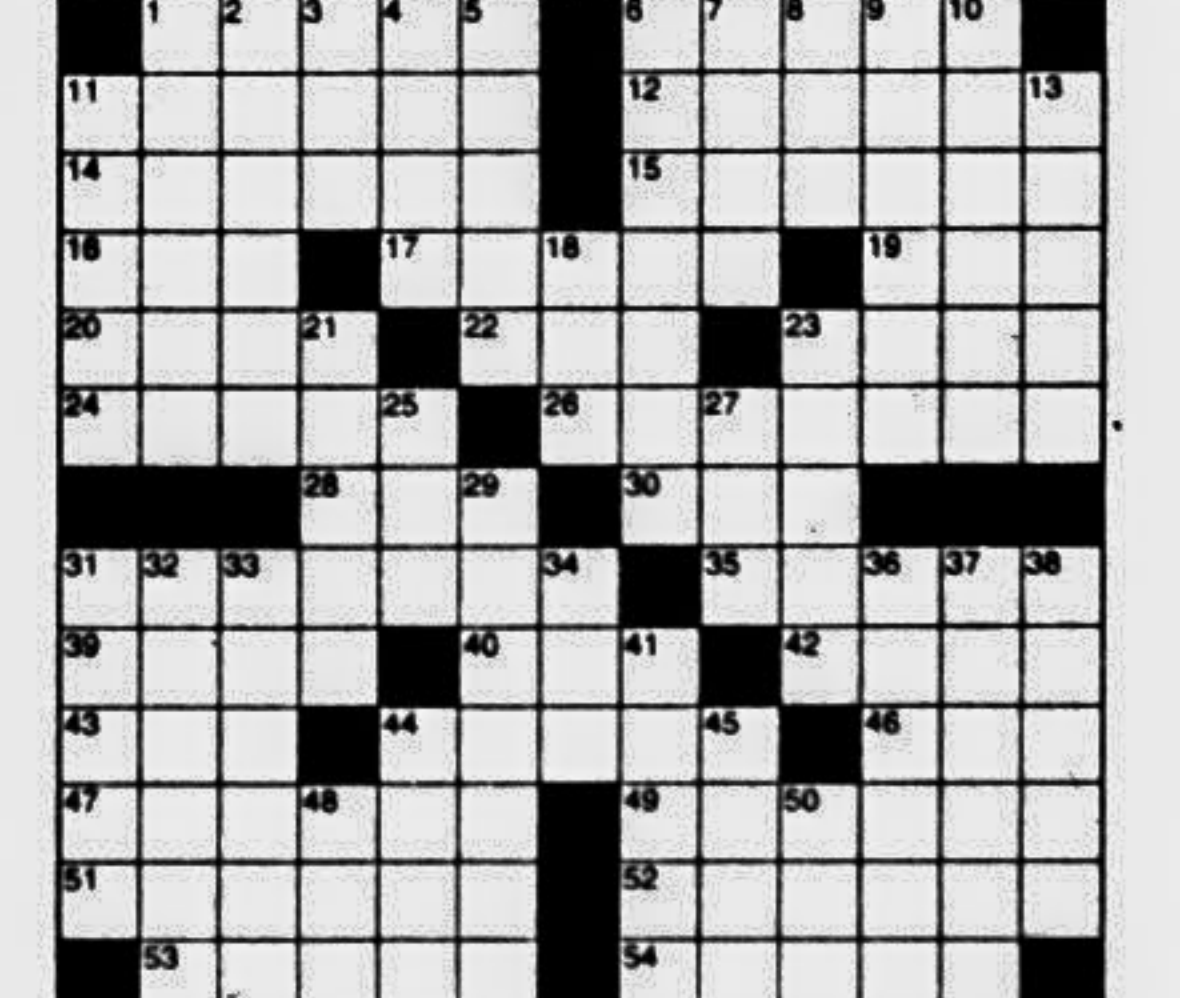
Harkes may
return to
England

ORLANDO, Florida, Jan 25: US International and DC United midfielder John Harkes said Saturday that Sheffield Wednesday of the English Premier League wants his services until the end of the season, reports Reuters.

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.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- Makes waterlight: var.
 - Dangle a carrot
 - Keel
 - Noise
 - Saul
 - Bellow book
 - Heavy overcoat
 - "— was saying..."
 - Prepares leftovers
 - Living or Grant
 - Starlet
 - Shankar
 - Chowder-head
 - Hollywood clasher
 - Pollster's finding
 - "Babe in Toyland"
 - Composer
 - Syr., once
 - Bill
 - Pennsylvania city
 - Station
 - Sheltered
 - Dove's
- DOWN
- 42 Erie's style
 - 43 "Poppy-cock"
 - 44 Colorations
 - 46 Old Olds
 - 47 Ghost
 - 49 "Name" composer
 - 51 Western capital
 - 52 Julia
 - 53 Louis-Dreyfus
 - 54 Dennis
 - 1 "Veri, vidi, vici"
 - 2 Get there
 - 3 Claiborne of fashion
 - 4 Recognize
 - 5 Long stories
 - 6 Elephant's call
 - 7 Potential sushi
 - 8 AWOL pursuers
 - 9 Thick soup
 - 10 Mini-quake
 - 11 Boardroom
 - 13 Rendezvous
 - 18 "Bravo!"
 - 21 Occupied
 - 23 Receded
 - 25 Doo follower
 - 27 "Awe-some!"
 - 29 Musical
 - 31 Strident
 - 32 Avoids a big wedding
 - 33 Do the bathroom
 - 34 Thither
 - 36 License permit
 - 37 Vest expense
 - 38 A million
 - 41 Different
 - 44 Louise or Turner
 - 45 Actress
 - 48 — U.S. Pat. Off.
 - 50 Kurosawa film
- Solution time: 23 mins.
- Yesterdays answer



CRYPTOQUIP
W E Y P K M E P M H W S G M L
I P F L W D H S X A Y Y H
M E Y W K D G F Y X W F
P W K H G I A Y M L
Yesterday's Cryptogram: A COMIC ASTRONAUT LOVES TO DECLARE THAT HIS FAVORITE FOOD IS LAUNCHON MEAT.

Today's Cryptogram clue: E equals H.
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.