

Column One

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT yellow as the prime jersey colour for the leader in cycling's Tour de France was introduced in 1919 by Henri Desgrange...

A bit of free advertisement on the side, what do you say?

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-89

Tick the Correct Answers Competition closes at 8 pm on March 6, 1998

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options (A, B, C, D) for a school competition.

Name, Class, Roll No., School Address, Phone: (if any) form fields.

POWERED WITH EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Steffi Graf (Former world No. 1 tennis star) 'My bag has been packed for eight weeks now. I've been burning to play tennis.'

Proud Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Mar 3: Russian President Boris Yeltsin saluted his country's Winter Olympic heroes Monday, telling the winners of the 18 medals that there was no shame in finishing third overall in the final medals table, reports AFP.

Handing cross-country skiing champion Larissa Lazutina a 'Golden Hero of Russia' award for her five medal haul...

WI grind England down



GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Mar 3 (AFP/AP): England skipper Mike Atherton braced himself for a new round of criticism of his captaincy after England crashed to a humiliating 242-run defeat in the fourth Test against the West Indies here on Monday.

But he said that although the West Indies had deserved their win, England could still win the series.

Despite the brave words, a slump in Atherton's batting form (he was out for a duck and one in his two innings here) and his controversial decision to use only two frontline seamers and two spinners rather than three pace bowlers, made Atherton's 50th Test as England's captain one he will want to forget.

The West Indies outthought and outplayed England from day one to go 2-1 up in the six-Test series and all the excitement generated by England's three-wicket triumph in Trinidad a fortnight ago evaporated as England followed up their dismal first innings 170 with an even worse 137 total in their second.

There were just five balls of the fourth day remaining when Curtly Ambrose had Dean Headley caught in the slip corridor for nine to wrap up the West Indian triumph.

Earlier, a poor display in the field allowed the West Indies, who scored 352 in their first innings, to rally from their overnight 127 for nine in their second innings to reach 197 all out.

England's psychological advantage, gained on day three, soon evaporated in the morning sunshine as Bishop and Ramnarine produced a defiant partnership.

The left-handed Ramnarine, in his debut Test, was left off four separate times to difficult chances and took full advantage.

The two established a new last wicket record stand for the West Indies against England, beating the unbeaten 67 put on by Michael Holding and Colin Croft at Antigua in 1981.

Bishop's unbeaten topscore of 44 off 94 balls included four fours and a towering six off left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell. Ramnarine's contribution was 19 before fast bowler Dean Headley removed him to finish with three for 90 off 31 overs.

The West Indies world class new ball pair took over in the afternoon. Ambrose struck with the fifth ball of his second over, removing England skipper Mike Atherton lbw for one with a sharp breakback.

Atherton's place in the team as opener will almost certainly come under review. He has scored only 216 runs since his 77 against Australia at Lord's last June for a miserable average of 14.4.

Walsh, in his 100th Test, was not to be denied. He soon provided a double strike of his own to leave England 22 for three.

Alex Stewart, England's leading batsman in the series, was lbw playing across for 12. Two balls later, Nasser Hussain got tangled up by a Walsh bouncer and fended a catch to Jimmy Adams at short-leg.

Only six more were added when Ambrose responded with his second wicket. Left-hander Graham Thorpe flicked off his legs and Ramnarine came up with a superb low, diving two-handed catch at leg gully.

brose for his second assault. But it was Hooper who broke the developing stand, Croft edging an arm ball to the wicket-keeper. Hooper also removed Angus Fraser to a top-edged sweep.

In between, Lara clung on to a brilliant first slip catch to dispatch Russell off Ambrose, who rounded off the innings and the match with the wicket of Headley, caught at fourth slip by Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

West Indies skipper Brian Lara was optimistic that his team would now go on to win the series.



CHANDERPAUL... p-o-m the series 4-1.

'I think we can come out on top in the fifth Test in Barbados and may be go on to win the series 4-1.'

Lara admitted that winning the toss proved crucial in his side's victory in the fourth Test. The West Indies captain gave much of the credit for the victory to his pace attack of Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh.

'Carl Hooper and Dinanath Ramnarine had very good matches. But Curtly and Courtney have done the job so often that you rely on them so much that it becomes automatic,' he added.

Atherton said he is still confident England can square the series in the fifth Test in Barbados.

'We've got happy memories at Barbados,' he said, adding: 'We won there last time and we'll have a lot of support there. Hopefully we can play as well as we did last time and level the series.'

Chanderpaul, who made a fine 118 in the West Indies first innings, was named man-of-the-match by former West Indies opening batsman Roy Fredericks.

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Barcelona ride on Brazilians

SANTANDER, Spain Mar 3: Brazilian ace Rivaldo and Sonny Anderson gave FC Barcelona the insurance they needed in the second half, securing a 4-2 victory over lowly Racing de Santander to keep Barca atop the standings, reports AP.

The win left Barcelona with 52 points, more than No 2 Real Madrid which beat Malorca Sunday and seven clear of third-placed Atletico de Madrid.

Two goals from Brazilian Rivaldo, the season's top scorer with 16 goals, in the 69th and 72nd and two from fellow countryman in the 82nd and 90th took the scoreline to 2-4 making a Barcelona victory appear a foregone conclusion.

Fernando Correa of Racing scored Racing's first goal in the 10th when he converted a penalty earned by Nacho Conte. Barcelona's best scoring chance of the first half came in the 33rd, but Racing's goalkeeper Jose Maria Ceiballos saved Anderson's shot.

Racing's second was scored by Alberto Lopez at minute 81. Other 27th-round results this week were: Zaragoza 1. Salamanca 1; Merida 3, Real Sociedad 1; Oviedo 0, Valencia 0; Celta 2, Deportivo de La Coruna 1; Athletic de Bilbao 2, Sporting de Gijon 2; Valladolid 2, Tenerife 1; Real Madrids 2, Malorca 0; Compostela 2, Betis 3; Espanyol 2, Atletico de Madrid 2.

Salas, the striker of River Plate of Argentina, scored both goals in Chile's 2-0 upset victory over England Feb 11.

Salas, 23, who will join the Lazio side of Rome after the World Cup with a multi-million dollar contract also scored one goal Sunday in River's 4-1 victory over Espanol in Buenos Aires.

The recovery of Zamorano and the continued good performances by Salas have Chilean fans growingly enthusiastic about their national team's possibilities in the World Cup.

El Mercurio, Chile's largest newspaper, on Monday displayed a poll among several prominent Latin American sports writers comparing Salas and Brazilian star Ronaldo of Inter Milan, FIFA's player of the year in 1996 and 1997: the result, an 8.6 mark for Salas, 8.5 for Ronaldo.

LONDON, Mar 3: Arsenal and West Ham played a lacklustre scoreless draw Monday at Upton Park in east London in the debut for West Ham's French international goalkeeper Bernard Lama, reports AP.

Lama, 34 and with 35 appearances for France, had some work in the match but not much against an under-strength Arsenal side.

The draw moved Arsenal into second place with 48 points, 11 behind Manchester United with two games in hand. West Ham have 40 points in eighth place.

Arsenal played without Dennis Bergkamp, out with a back injury, and Nigel Winterburn was on the bench to protect an injured ankle. Without Bergkamp, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger adopted a defensive formation with just Nicolas Anelka deployed up front.

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Atherton looks back on Barbados bravery

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Mar 3 (AFP): England's cricket bosses have the uplifting memory of the famous Barbados 1994 victory to brighten their mood as they set out to heal the wounds of the 242-run Georgetown Test thrashing.

Skipper Mike Atherton said the expected hordes of English supporters would also be a factor in the fifth Test in Bridgetown, which starts on March 12.

Atherton said: 'It's very disappointing to have gone 2-1 down in the series, but there are still two matches to play and we have very happy memories of Barbados after winning there during our last tour.'

It is important we concentrate now on this next Test, and we also have a three-day game against Barbados later this week in which to get our batsmen into form.

'There will also be an awful lot of support for us in Bridgetown, just like last time.' In 1994 England won by 208 runs with Alec Stewart scoring a hundred in both innings, Atherton making 85 in the first innings and Graham Thorpe scoring 84 second time around.

The atmosphere at the ground was dominated by English fans and up to 8,000 supporters are predicted to be on the island this time.

Angus Fraser then took 8-75 to give England a half-way advantage, and Andy Caddick's second innings 5-63 helped to clinch a first win in Barbados for 60 years.

The value of that result, on Atherton's first tour as captain, was in providing much-needed consolation in a series already lost.

Now, however, Atherton needs a victory to re-establish his future claims on the skipper's job after 50 Tests in charge.

There was a big part because this pitch deteriorated far more than any other pitch I have seen. No team would have wanted to bat last on that, and our bowlers got more out of it than England because they are faster and hit the pitch harder.'

Atherton, however, defended too England's controversial selection decision to leave out Andy Caddick - the bowler who hits the pitch hardest in their seam attack - and go in with just two frontline seamers.

He added: 'I would not change that decision if we had to make it again. Look at the chances we grasped. There must have been nine or ten during the game - including Chanderpaul early in his century in their first innings.'

'A lot of those chances were difficult ones, but you'd expect to take more than we did. We could have bowled them out a lot more cheaply in both innings.'

'We have shown throughout the series that we have the capability to bowl them out twice, and I do think the West Indies batting is fragile.'

'There is no reason we can't continue to do that and we can therefore win in the next Test in Barbados if we start getting some runs on the board.'

'We have come back in this series already and if we win in Barbados the series will be 2-2 and we will be right back in it.'

charge. If England were to be beaten again the whole debate about Atherton's leadership would be reopened.

Meanwhile, Atherton refused to agree with his rival skipper Brian Lara during the initial assessments of England's 242-run thrashing in Georgetown.

Atherton and Lara took opposite stances both on the im-

portance of the toss to the fourth Test outcome and on the psychological effect of England's failure to take the final West Indies second innings wicket.

England cricket board chairman Lord MacLaurin in Guyana to support his team, also came down on Lara's side when he said: 'In my view it was a case of win the toss, win the game, on that pitch.'

But skipper Atherton insisted: 'The West Indies played better cricket throughout the game. It was a good toss to win but it didn't contribute to their victory.'

Lara said: 'It was definitely a



MIKE ATHERTON

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Chile's chilly strike duo

SANTIAGO, Chile, Mar 3: Chile's star striker Ivan Zamorano says Italian head coach Cesare Maldini has a reason to be worried when the two national squads play in the soccer World Cup in France in June, reports AP.

Serie A's most wanted

ROME, Mar 3: AC Milan's platinum-blond French midfielder Ibrahim Becha is the latest foreign player in Italy, according to an opinion poll published on Monday, reports Reuters.

Gomez on a roll

NAPLES, Florida, Mar 3: Andres Gomez and Dutch striker Patrick Kluijvert taking 1 per cent and Croatian midfielder Zvonimir Boban claiming eight per cent.

Gunners held

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