

## Diego to join Div II club?

MADRID, July 28 (AP): "Could you imagine Maradona joining Badajoz?" That's what the headline of Spanish sports daily Marca stated Monday, reporting that Argentine soccer idol Diego Maradona could join Badajoz — a humble Spanish second division side — as player-coach next season. Marca said Maradona's manager Guillermo Coppola had started negotiations with Badajoz, whose owner is Argentine comic Mauricio Tinelli, but no agreement had been reached. Since he retired from football last year, the four-time World Cup player has considered a number of ways to get back into the game. Earlier this year, he reportedly explored the possibility of joining an Argentine second division team. During the recent France '98 World Cup, reports circulated that he was negotiating with an English team.



## Selecting without selectors!

Sports Reporter  
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is destined to face another bout of controversy when it selects the national team for the Commonwealth Games, to be held in Malaysia from September 11 to 21.

The BCB, which is without a selection committee, will have to submit the final list of 14 players to the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) in the first week of August. It was learnt that BOA must send the name of the Bangladesh contingent to the Games organising committee by August 11.

The BCB dissolved the Luthar Rahman Makhani led five-member selection panel on April 14. But after three months, the board is yet to announce a new committee.

Although the five-member steering committee of the board, led by BCB vice-president Tanveer Mazhar Tanna, have already drafted their recommendations for various standing committees in its first meeting last week, all the sub-committees will be disclosed after the approval in the next board meeting, scheduled for August 21.

Under the circumstances, it seems that the team for the Games will be selected solely by the BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury as was the case when he named the Australia bound 16-member squad recently.

"We will come up with a solution some way or the other," said BCB joint-secretary Mahmud-ul-Haque Manu without putting forward any satisfactory strategy.

It should be mentioned most of the 16 participating teams have already announced their squads for the Commonwealth Games.

## SL taste first tour win

LONDON, July 28 (Internet): Sri Lanka grabbed the first victory of their English tour with a nine-wicket thrashing of Leicestershire at Grace Road yesterday.

The tourists reached their 99-run target with 15.2 overs to spare, but they had to work much harder for the win than they would have anticipated at the start of the final day, when Leicestershire were still 30 runs behind with only five second-innings wickets remaining.

However, the home county batted for another three-and-a-half hours and 53 overs, adding a further 128 runs to reach a total of 362.

Although it was a frustrating period for the tourists, the victory target of 99 in 40 overs was a comfortable one for them and they reached it with a minimum of fuss for the loss of Sanath Jayasuriya.

He was out for 30, having shared an opening stand of 53 with Russel Arnold, who made an unbeaten 44.

After the draw with Somerset and the two-day defeat by Glamorgan, Sri Lanka have bounced back well and will now buoyant mood for the one-day tournament with England and South Africa, and the Test against England at The Oval next month.

## Lewis gets chop from WC

LONDON, July 28 (The Mirror/Internet): Chris Lewis is the stark omission from a 37-man provisional squad for next year's World Cup announced by England's selectors yesterday.

The Leicestershire all-rounder, who was recalled to the international stage for the Texaco Trophy defeat against South Africa in May, now finds that the likes of uncapped trio Ian Austin, Mark Alleyne and Vince Wells have moved ahead of him.

Eight players yet to represent England at senior level have been included in a squad named now, so fitness adviser Dean Riddle can start each individual on specific World Cup build-up programmes.

The other five new names are batsman Ben Smith, wicketkeepers Warren Hegg and Paul Nixon, fast bowler Ed Giddins and all-rounder Paul Grayson.

David Graveney, England's chairman of selectors, said: "It is important to stress that this squad selection remains open-ended, as we do not have to name our official provisional World Cup squad until January 15."

"As such, we have plenty of scope to add in-form players to this party over the next few months."

"We will be looking particularly at the up-coming England under-19 games in which Graeme Swann and Paul Franks, for instance, might make strong cases for inclusion."

On Lewis, who played in the 1992 World Cup final, Graveney would only say that he — like other disappointed players — had to "roll up their sleeves" in a bid to gain late selection.



Star forward Mia Hamm (C) of the United States tries to power past China's Liu Ailing (R) during their Goodwill Games final at Uniondale, New York on July 27. Hamm scored both the goals as USA won 2-0. — AFP photo

# Hamm powers USA to soccer glory

UNIONDALE, New York, July 28 (Reuters/AP): Mia Hamm, already considered the best women's soccer player in the world, laid further claim to the title at the Goodwill Games.

Hamm scored both goals to power the United States to a 2-0 victory over China to capture the gold medal on Monday night, finishing the tournament with five goals after a hat-trick in a 5-0 triumph over Denmark on Saturday.

Hamm's goals tied her with Michelle Akers for the all-time US women's scoring lead with 97 goals each before a crowd of 11,307 at the Mitchell Athletic Complex, the highest crowd yet at any sport at the Games.

"Both goals she scored were just awesome," US coach Tony DiCiccio said.

Chinese goalkeeper Zhao Yan agreed. "I thought before the game she was the best player in the world and I still feel that way. She's an exceptional player."

Hamm, who let the United States to an Olympic gold medal at the 1996 Games, gave the Americans all the scoring they needed in the 66th minute, firing home a shot from 14 metres, set up with passes by Akers and Kristine Lilly.

"Kristine put a wonderful ball through," Hamm said. "I just hit it as hard as a could."

In the bronze-medal match, Norway outlasted Denmark on penalties 4-2 after playing to a 1-1 tie.

Hege Russe, Linda Medalen, Marianne Pettersen and Henriette Vikar converted their chances for the Norwegians. Goalkeeper Bente Nordby saved Anne Nielsen's attempt and forced Louise Hansen to hit the right post.

Unni Lehn lifted Norway into a 1-0 lead in the 20th minute, but Nielsen equalised with eight minutes left in the match.

The Goodwill Games boxing tournament began, and an American scored a quick upset.

Bantamweight Antonio Rodriguez of Waianae, Hawaii, outpointed world championship bronze medalist Soner Karaoz of Turkey 9-1 in the quarterfinals.

Other American winners included heavyweight DaVarryl Williamson of Aurora, Colorado, whose bout against Italy's Giocchino Mocerino was stopped when Williamson landed a punch to the head; welterweights Miguel Espino and Larry Mosely; lightweight Jacob Hudson; bantamweight Jose

Santa Cruz; and heavyweight Malcolm Tann.

Light-flyweight Jose Navarro of Los Angeles lost 9-2 to world championship silver medalist Roel Velasco.

Dmitry Sautin, repeating his 3-metre and platform double from the 1998 World Championships, won the platform diving Monday night.

The Russian easily defeated a pair of Chinese divers in the platform, where he also is the 1996 Olympic champion.

Sautin had 665.49 points for the gold medal, while Tian Liang had 623.01 and Sun Shuwel 598.80 for the silver and bronze.

Three Americans — Mark Ruiz, Kevin McMahon and Kyle Prandi — finished sixth, seventh and eighth. Ruiz won the bronze medal in the 1-meter event.

Sautin had at least one judge's award of 8.5 on all of his 21 dives except one in his two events — his next-to-last dive on Monday. His best mark on a reverse 3 1/2 was 7.5.

But he came back with all 8's, 8.5's and 9.0's on his last dive — an inward 3 1/2 with a high 3.4 degree of difficulty — to score 87.36 points, his highest in either the 3-meter or platform.

## Blacks' contrasting day

LOS ANGELES, July 28: Seventh-seeded Byron Black of Zimbabwe outlasted Sjeng Schalken 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) Monday to reach the second round of the 340,000-dollar ATP Tour tennis tournament here, reports AFP.

Black saved four set points in the second-set tie breaker then reeled off the last three points to take the match in an hour and 37 minutes.

His brother and Zimbabwe Davis Cup partner Wayne Black was less fortunate, falling in his opening match to Czech Martin Damm 2-6, 7-5, 6-0.

"I started slow today," Byron Black said. "I just wanted to hang in. Sjeng's a hot and cold player. I wanted to hold my serve and move him around the court."

Black advanced to a meeting with Italian Gianluca Pozzouli Open champion Pat

Rafter of Australia heads the field for the event. He was to open his campaign on Tuesday night against Paraguay's Ramon Delgado.

Britain's Tim Henman is the second seed, followed by Croatian Goran Ivanisevic and Sweden's Thomas Enqvist.

Ivanisevic, a wild card, has not completed since a heart-breaking five-set loss to Pete Sampras in the Wimbledon final. "He'll take on French man Guillaume Raoux today."

Fifth-seeded Andre Agassi, who carved up the field to win the ATP Tour event in Washington last week, was also due to play his first-round match on Tuesday, when he took on US wild card Bob Bryan.

On Monday, red-hot young Australian Andre Ilie needed just 61 minutes to take care of American Malival Washington 6-4, 6-1.

Ilie, 22, has stormed to a ca-

reer high 55th in the world this week — up from 477th last November.

He won the clay court tournament in Coral Springs, Florida, in May for his only ATP Tour title this year and in the past 45 days he has won two challenger events and reached the final of another.

He said his recent success hasn't changed his approach to tournaments, just made it easier to take them in stride.

"Because I've played so many matches it's routine, which is good," he said. "I'm not nervous, I'm just neutral."

Injury sidetracked Ilie in late 1996 and 1997, but he said work in the gym and acupuncture has taken care of his lower back problems, allowing him to set his sights on the future.

"At the moment, I want to be in the top 50, if I can get in the top 50 I'll be happy and I'll look forward to another goal."

# I might not bowl again: Warne



Sydney, July 28 (The Sydney Telegraph/Internet): Shane Warne has admitted there is a chance he may never play again.

Warne, 28, is just two months into what is expected to be a year of rehabilitation from major shoulder surgery necessitated by the exertion of taking 313 Test wickets, second only to Dennis Lillee among Australians.

He said he had made it his goal to play in early Sheffield Shield games this summer, and in the first Ashes Test, but had been told it was "not realistic".

He will most likely miss playing in the Ashes series, the succeeding tour of the West Indies and the World Cup in England.

"There is still a chance [of not playing again], a slim chance," he said. "It's the nature of the operation. The thing is, no other leg-spinner has had the operation, and it's a major one."

"It can keep some people - baseballers, javelin throwers - out for 18 months, and some have never come back. I suppose in the back of your mind there is that concern that you may never play again. It might be all over. That's a pretty daunting thought."

"[But] if that's the case, that's the case. What can you do? There's no use sitting around feeling sorry for yourself."

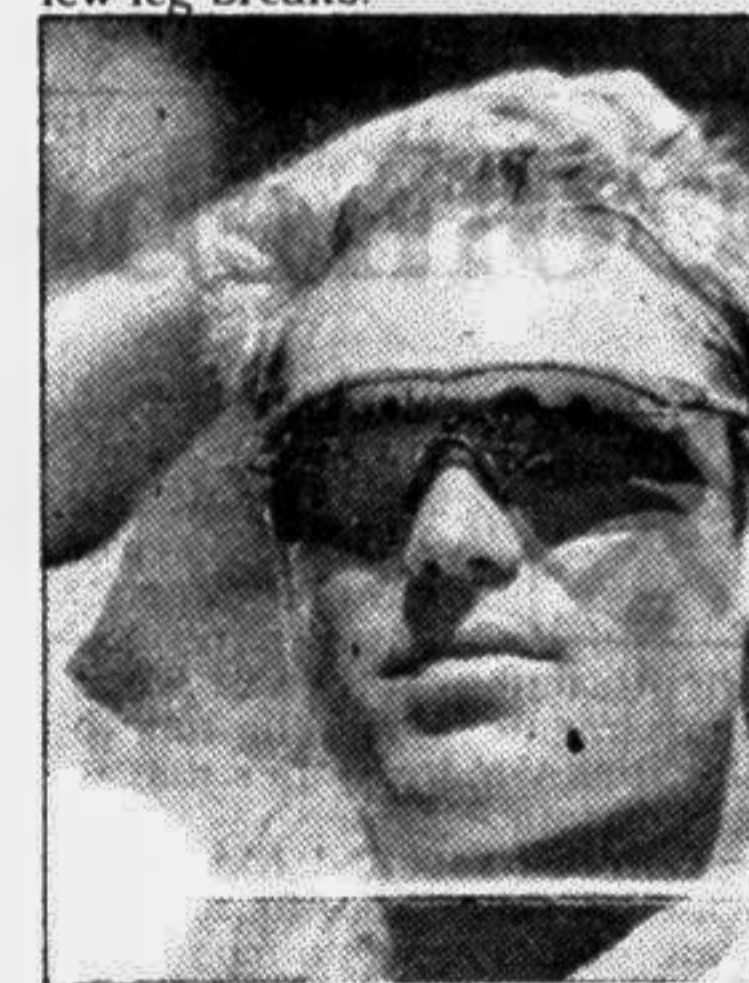
Warne preferred to concentrate on when, not if, he would play again.

Speaking at a tribute dinner in Melbourne on Monday night, Warne, who was suspended from bravado and discretion, saying that he hoped to prove wrong the prognosis that he would have to spend a year out of the game, but also that he would not return until he was completely fit.

"I like to be positive in every-

thing I do, and at this stage, my target is to play the first few Shield games and get right for the first Test," he said. "In my mind, it's realistic. So I'm pounding the pavement, running around trying to lose a few kilos and get fit."

"Hopefully, in four to six weeks I'll start rolling my arm over, and start trying to bowl a few leg-breaks."



SHANE WARNE

"I won't come back until it's 120 per cent right. I don't want to play just 12 months; I want to play another five years if I'm good enough, still enjoying myself, doing well and not holding back a young guy who's better than me."

Warne's need for shoulder surgery was first identified two years ago but was disregarded because Australia was about to play vital series against the West Indies, South Africa and England.

It became imperative last summer. Warne took a spectacular 36 wickets in the first five Tests, variously against New Zealand and South Africa, but injury, workload and Sachin Tendulkar took their toll and he managed just 11 wickets in

three Tests in India. "I was told that if I kept going, I might have only 50 per cent use of my shoulder for the rest of my life. It was at a stage where it was obviously painful to bowl, and I couldn't bowl to the best of my ability," Warne said.

"But you don't go round saying that's why you're not bowling well. I had had the most successful summer of my life last summer, so how do you say to someone: 'The shoulder is sore'. I had to put up with it, but there were times when it got quite tough."

Warne's stature in Australian sport was evident at the tribute.

Sir Donald Bradman, in an excerpt from a two-year-old interview, called him "the best thing that had happened to Australian cricket for a long, long time."

Allan Border called him "a breath of fresh air" and Ian Chappell said he hoped Warne captained Australia "sooner rather than later".

Warne took Chappell's compliment graciously. "I think anyone given the opportunity at the highest level would grab it, as long as you think you can make a difference," he said. "If the time comes, and I'm one of the candidates, I'd jump at it."

"At the moment, Mark Taylor and Steve Waugh are doing a good job. It's a bit of a trial stage. Clearly, they want only one captain. Some guys like to be captain, and some just like to play. I've really enjoyed the captaincy of Victoria. It seems to bring out the best in me."

Warne said his immediate focus was on keeping fit. He was running and swimming six times a week, and concentrating on a diet that included plenty of fruit and no butter.

Only sometimes did he weaken. "At the footy every now and then, you've got to have a pie!" he said.

# CBF parts with Zagallo



RIO DE JANEIRO, July 28 (AP/Reuters): The Brazilian soccer confederation on Monday dismissed national team coach Mario Zagallo and the entire staff that coached the team during the World Cup in France.

The saga will continue, and you'll have the last installment when they name their new coach," Zagallo told reporters.

The move was widely expected, and the team's new coach will be named Aug. 31.

Zagallo coached the national team over 148 games in two terms, including 107 victories, 29 ties and 12 losses.

Zagallo's first game as coach came in 1970 when Brazil beat Chile 5-0 in the World Cup in Mexico. He led Brazil to the World Cup title that year and took over again following the 1994 tournament. His last game was this year's World Cup final, which Brazil lost 3-0 to France.

Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) president Ricardo Teixeira praised Zagallo's staff's efforts at the recent World Cup, but said on Monday that the time was ripe for a change.

"The management staff's work during the World Cup was excellent. But now we are going to build a new team, that will begin working with their mind set on the 2002 World Cup," Teixeira told reporters.

He refused to speculate on who might replace Zagallo but



HANDING OVER: An AFP file photo of Brazil coach Mario Zagallo during the World Cup final against France on July 12. The Brazilian football authority terminated Zagallo's contract on July 28.

said the new coach would be announced by the end of August.

"We're not going to look at any name independently. We're going to consider the management staff as a team which will need to work with the 2000 Olympics and the 2002 World Cup in mind," he said.

Brazilian newspapers cited Carlos Alberto Parreira, the

former Brazil coach who won the 1994 World Cup and who was fired by Saudi Arabia at the World Cup, as a possible candidate to replace Zagallo.

Other candidates included Luis Felipe Scolari, currently training Palmeiras of Sao Paulo, and Vanderlei Luxemburgo who now manages Corinthians, also Sao Paulo.



Norway's custodian Bente Nordby dives to her left during penalty shootout in the battle for Goodwill Games bronze against Denmark at Uniondale, New York on July 27. — AFP photo