

Gough grinds Worcester to a halt

LONDON, Aug 4: England paceman Darren Gough swept Yorkshire to an overwhelming English championship victory against Worcestershire on Monday, reports Reuters.

Gough took five for 36 as Worcestershire were skittled for 94 at their Worcester headquarters.

The innings and 160 runs success left Yorkshire joint third. Gough's figures, added to his four for 30 haul in Sunday's one-day, means he is full of confidence for this week's deciding fifth Test against South Africa on Home turf at Headingley.

"I have been bowling well all season and now I am getting figures to prove that I am on song," said Gough. His victims included Test players Graeme Hick and Tom Moody.

Scottish all-rounder Gavin Hamilton did the rest of the damage with four for 17.

Worcestershire said today that they have agreed a new one-year contract with Tom Moody to keep their Australian captain at the English county side next season.

The deal will go ahead whether or not Moody is included in his country's squad for the World Cup in the early part of the summer.

Yorkshire took 24 points from their fourth win of the season but remained 42 adrift of leaders Surrey who beat Sussex with a day to spare.

Bad weather spoiled any challenge envisaged by fourth-placed Lancashire and second placed Leicestershire, their match at Old Trafford was called off an hour before the start.

Nottinghamshire's home game against Northamptonshire was also washed out.

In danger of losing to Derbyshire, had to survive only 32 balls in the final day because of prolonged rain at Derby.

An undefeated 97 by Martin Speight saw Durham to safety against Hampshire at Southampton.

Nivel regains consciousness

LILLE, France, Aug 4: A French policeman was awoken from a coma, six weeks after being clubbed over the head by German thugs during the World Cup, hospital officials said today, reports AP.

Daniel Nivel, 44, regained consciousness on Monday, and was taken off a respirator. He was expected to begin rehabilitation in the next few weeks. Lille hospital said in a statement.

"Daniel Nivel spends several hours per day in an armchair," the statement said. "He suffers serious problems concerning understanding and speech and will need extensive rehabilitation."

The hospital added that Nivel also was suffering from muscular problems on his right side.

Nivel was attacked by a group of German fans shortly after a June 21 World Cup match between Germany and Yugoslavia in this northern French town.

At the time of the attack, Nivel was guarding a police vehicle near the stadium. He was hit on the back of the head with an iron bar.

Four suspects are in custody in Germany, facing charges of joint attempted murder and other serious bodily harm as well as disturbing the peace. Another suspect is being held in France.

German prosecutors say they believe they have most of the suspects, but added that their investigation remained open.

Premier kabadi

Ansar & VDP and Rifles (Sr) won their respective matches in the 5th KM Mainuddin Smriti Premier kabadi league at the Outer Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the first match, Ansar and VDP beat Police "B" by 22-5 points with two creditable lions. The first half score was 2-2.

In the other match, Police "A" team lost for the first time in the current league against Rifles Sr, also by a similar margin of 22-5 points.

The science of lbw!



MELBOURNE, Aug 4: The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said today it was interested in new technology which may reduce contentious leg before wicket decisions in the game, reports AFP.

ACB national umpiring manager Tony Crafter said he was interested in the use of cameras and computers to deliver footproof lbw verdicts but said the introduction of the technology was 12 months away.

Crafter, who officiated in 33 Test matches and 85 one-day internationals as an umpire, said anything that ensured correct decisions was worth examining.

South African sports scientist Time Noakes, head of sports research at South Africa's Cape Town University, said Monday he could develop the system within weeks given 270,000 dollars (165,000 US dollars) of funding.

The method puts one camera behind the batsman and another beside him.

Noakes said by having the cameras placed at right angles, umpires could establish the trajectory and height of the delivery.

A computer would receive the information and assess whether the ball would have hit the stumps after striking the batsman's pads.

Crafter said Tuesday he wanted more information about the technology.

"I suspect a number of those sorts of things are in the embryo stage for lbw decisions," Crafter said.

"I wouldn't want to see the human element completely taken out but I would like to see what is being proposed. It's important in cricket, and modern sport in general, that the right decisions are given."

"The lbw is a decision that relies entirely on the umpire's discretion, but it's not black and white."

Crafter said any use of the South African technology was at least a year off as the International Cricket Council (ICC) would have to approve it at their next annual general meeting, scheduled for July next year.

Meanwhile, the ACB is expected to introduce a new wide rule to counter negative bowling tactics for the next Australian first-class season.

The ICC ruled earlier this year that umpires would crack down on leg side bowling to negative fields or into bowlers' footmarks to slow batsman's scoring rates such deliveries would be deemed a wide, similar to international one-day rules.

"It's going to happen in international cricket and may be adopted by the board before our domestic season," Crafter said.

"It's usually normal board policy to adopt what happens in international cricket as we do in most other circumstances."

The Australian side will first experience the ICC crackdown on the three-Test tour to Pakistan from late September.

SL draw tour match

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth and final day of the tour match between Sri Lanka and Middlesex at Lord's on Monday:

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 313

SRI LANKA: First Innings 424

MIDDLESEX: Second Innings

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Dutch b Hathurisingha 8

Batt not out 18

Extras: (b-2, lb-4, nb-8) 14

Total: (For 7 wickets in 87 overs) 231

Did not bat: Bloomfield, Tunell

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Bowler O M R W

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Result: Match drawn

Agassi urges ahead

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Legends of the Football League

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They were joined by Schmeichel's former teammate Eric Cantona of France, former Tottenham and Argentina midfielder Ossie Ardiles and Arsenal's Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp on the list, which boasts Stanley Matthews, Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst, George Best and Bobby Charlton among its numbers.

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Of 52 summer transfers, 26 involved players from outside the British Isles, a situation Taylor believes cannot be allowed to continue.

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MEDITATING? South African skipper Hansie Cronje concentrating before net practice at Headingley on August 4. — AFP photo

World basketball

Russians silence Greeks

ATHENS, Aug 4: Russia underlined their World basketball title credentials with an impressive 60-48 victory over hosts Greece in a second round group match on Monday, reports Reuters.

The Russian victory ended the Greeks' unbeaten run of four games and stunned the capacity crowd in the 15,000-capacity stadium roaring their favourites on.

Sergei Babkov had an outstanding game for the Russians, top scoring with 18 points.

Many of them came at a critical period in the second half when the score went from 43-38 to Greece to 52-43 for Russia — a devastating 14 point spell without reply.

Despite the defeat, Greece are safely through to the quarter-finals along with Russia and Yugoslavia and still hold a clear chance of the title, despite Monday