

Sport

Windies A 350/5

PUNE, Nov 24: Brilliant centuries by Richard Smith (170 not out) and Wavell Hinds (101) enabled West Indies A to pile up a moderate 350 for five in 94 overs in their first innings against India Youth team on the opening day of the three-day tie at Nehru Stadium here on Monday, reports PTI.

West Indies A skipper, Ian Bishop won the toss and elected to bat first on a placid wicket. At close of play, Richard Smith and Courtney Browne (9) were at the crease.

Smith scored his second international century. Earlier he had slammed century against Jamaica. During his unbeaten 170 runs, Smith slammed 28 boundaries in 260 balls. He almost smashed the Indian bowlers to all corners of field.

Smith was also involved in 218-run partnership for the fourth wicket stand with Hinds, who made a useful 101 runs. Hinds was snapped by wicket-keeper Vijay Dahiya of the bowling of left-arm spinner Rohan Gavaskar, who made his international debut. Hinds hit 18 boundaries including a six and faced 148 balls in 201 minutes.

However, first three wickets fell cheaply with only 22 runs on the board in 8.5 overs. Opener Adrian Griffith was caught by Vijay off the bowling of seamer Ashish Zaidi, on his individual score of two. After the exit of Griffith, his opening partner, Sherwin Campbell was snapped by Debang Gandhi off the bowling of seamer Obaid Kamal for four.

Later Keith Semple was bowled by Kamal on 10. After the departure of first three batsmen, both Hinds and Smith steadied West Indies innings.

Rohan got rid of the pair when Hinds, who was going great guns, was snapped by Vijay off the bowling of Gavaskar.

Later, Christopher Gayle was trapped leg before wicket by Rohan. Gayle made 43.

The West Indies A team made four changes after their match at Mumbai against the Board XI. Ian Bishop, Courtney Browne, Christopher Gayle and Carl Tuckett come in place of Reon King, Rawl Lewis, Ramnaresh Sarwan and Wayne Phillips.

Kamal and Rohan claimed two wickets each for India youth team.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the three-day tie between West Indies A versus India Youth at the Nehru Stadium ground on Monday:

WEST INDIES: First innings Griffith c Vijay b Zaidi 2; Campbell c Debang b Kamal 4; Semple b Kamal 10; Hinds c Vijay b Rohan 101; Smith not out 170; Gayle lbw Rohan 43; Browne not out 9; Extras: (b-1; lb-5; nb-5) ---11; Total: (for five wickets in 94 overs): 350; Fall of wkts: 1-7; 2-18; 3-22; 4-24; 5-326.

Bowler

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kamal	19	5	56	2
Zaidi	13	2	58	1
Nilesh	17	5	77	0
Sairaj	21	2	18	0
Samram	8	1	25	0
Manhas	6	1	15	0
Rohan	7	2	26	2
Debang	3	1	6	0

Euro 2000

Just two tickets for each

BRUSSELS, Nov 24 (Reuters/Internet): Fans planning to attend the Euro 2000 soccer championship will be able to buy just two tickets per game, Belgian Interior Minister Luc Van den Bossche said on Tuesday.

"We want to make sure that there will be no black market," Van den Bossche told VRT radio.

Organisers had been hoping to sell up to four tickets per person per game. A date for the start of ticket sales has not yet been set.

Van den Bossche and his Dutch counterpart Bram Peper met on Monday to discuss security measures for the championship, which is co-hosted by Belgium and The Netherlands.

The ministers also said they would consider trying to exclude teams from the event if their fans were too violent.

"Exclusion of the country involved is a measure we should dare to think of."

Otherwise a mayor may decide for the next game that he doesn't want this kind of fans in his city," he added.

Van den Bossche also claimed that fans who purchased tickets remained responsible if they sold them to others.

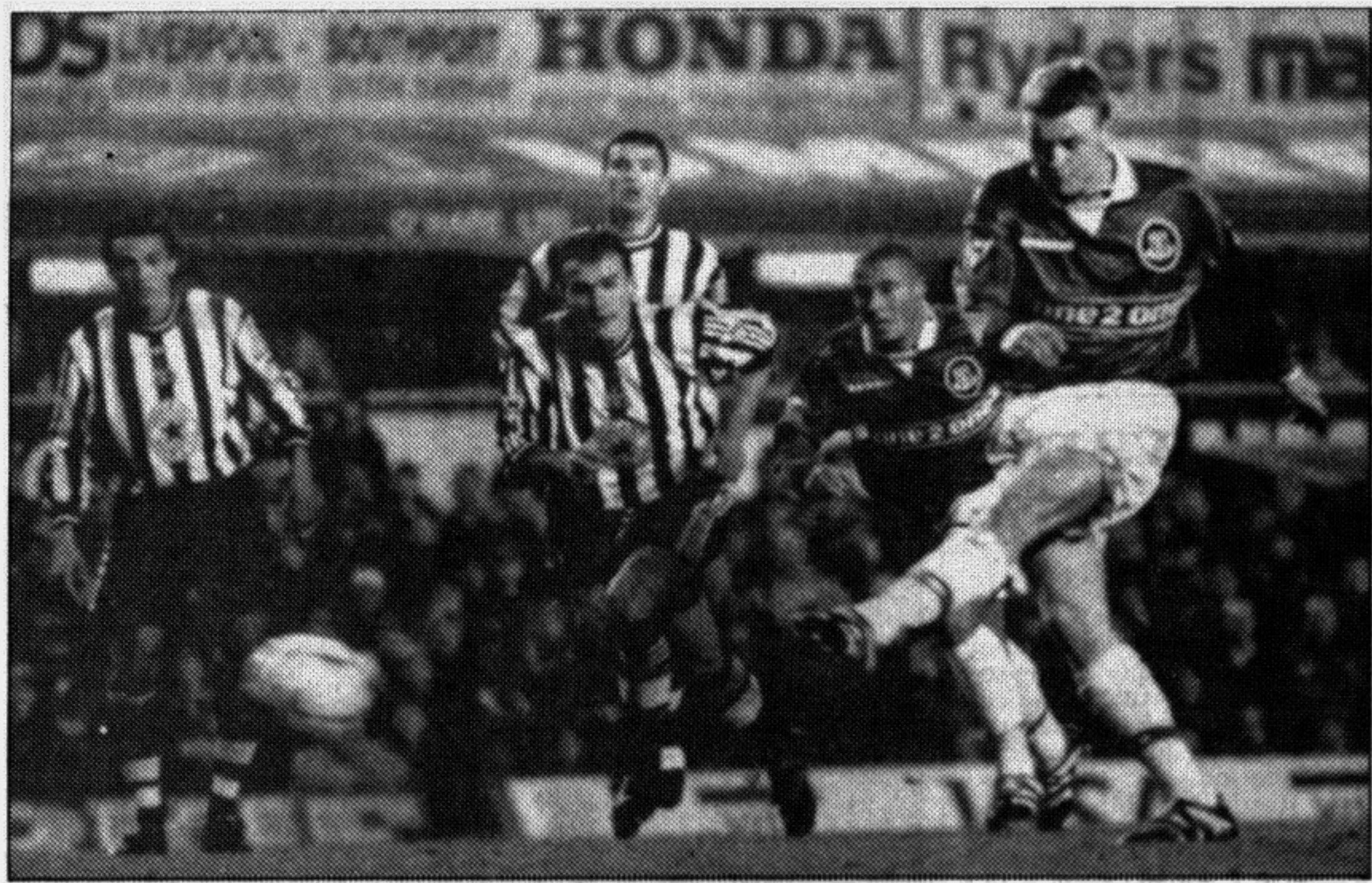
"If I give it to a third person and there is damage, then I am responsible," said Van den Bossche, who added that tour operators would be excluded from the ticket share-out.

"Very consciously so, because that was the beginning of the end at the World Cup in France," he said.

Organisers of last year's World Cup were beset for months by accusations of unfair ticket allocations favouring French fans.

Van den Bossche said all tickets sold before January 1, 2000, would be name-bearing. But anyone buying tickets afterwards would also be registered.

Van den Bossche and Peper were also planning to sign a police cooperation deal and set "tolerance limits".



Michael Ball (R) of Everton driving home a penalty during their English Premiership fixture at Goodison Park, Newcastle on November 23. — AFP photo

Top guns' moment of truth

LONDON, Nov 24 (Reuters/Internet): The Champions' League reaches its penultimate round on Wednesday with four of Europe's big names clashing in two enticing fixtures -- holders Real Madrid visiting Inter Milan and Barcelona taking on Manchester United.

That game in the Nou Camp will revive memories of the teams' Champions' League clash of four years ago when Barcelona ran riot to win 4-0.

United, however, have learned a great deal about the European game since then and are the competition's top scorers this season with 16 goals in their four games.

The teams drew 3-3 in September after United had led 2-0 and the likelihood goals is high as the Spanish side really need a win to make ground.

Only the group winners are guaranteed a place in the quarter-finals, with the remaining two spots going to the two best runners-up.

United lead Bayern Munich and Barcelona by a point in Group D but, with the Germans hosting Borussia Dortmund and expected to win, nothing will be decided until the final round.

That situation almost certainly also applies to Group C, in which holders Real Madrid have opened a two-point lead over Inter and Spartak Moscow. Real have been struggling domestically but have been in good form in this competition, banging in 11 goals in their two successive victories over Sturm Graz.

The Austrians, without a point, are the only team who cannot qualify and they are unlikely to upset Spartak in Russia.

Group E was completely turned around after the last round of fixtures with Arsenal dropping from first to last after losing to Dynamo Kiev.

One point and two goals separate the four sides, with Panathinaikos on six points and the others all on five. The Greeks face the difficult trip to Kiev on Wednesday while Arsenal host RC Lens.

Kiev have really turned on the style in their last two games and should be too strong for Panathinaikos.

Arsenal, who missed out on three points when they allowed Lens a last-minute equaliser in

France, are struggling with injuries but will hope to gain inspiration from a Wembley full house.

Group F leaders Kaiserslautern are in the strongest position of all with 10 points and a five-point lead over HJK Helsinki.

Victory for the Germans at Benfica would guarantee them top spot and even a draw would probably suffice.

Outsiders Helsinki, who continue to defy the odds, would need to beat PSV Eindhoven in Finland on Wednesday, and then beat Kaiserslautern in Germany in their final fixture to top the group.

Olympiakos are also flying the flag for the less glamorous teams although their defeat in Amsterdam on their last outing gave the Group A table a more familiar look.

Ajax, winners in 1995 and runners-up the following season, have picked up momentum after a poor start this season but still lead Olympiakos only on goal difference. They will look to consolidate that position at home to Croatia Zagreb.

Olympiakos entertain Porto, who are three points behind after their surprising 3-1 defeat in Croatia three weeks ago.

Rosenborg Trondheim, who have been a thorn in the side for some of Europe's finest in recent seasons, continue to cause problems and could go provisionally top of Group B with home victory over Athletic Bilbao.

Current leaders Galatasaray will have to wait a week for their game with Juventus which was postponed because of "current political tension" between Turkey and Italy.

Juve, who have appeared in the last three finals, have drawn all four group games to date and another stalemate would leave them needing a miraculous late escape to make the quarter-finals.

STANDINGS Following is a group-by-group analysis before Wednesday's matches:

GROUP A Olympiakos Piraeus v Porto Ajax Amsterdam v Croatia Zagreb

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax Amsterdam	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
Olympiakos Piraeus	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Porto	4	1	2	1	7	4	4
Croatia Zagreb	4	1	1	2	3	6	4

GROUP B

Rosenborg Trondheim v Athletic Bilbao Galatasaray v Juventus

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Rosenborg	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Trondheim	4	0	4	0	4	4	4
Juventus	4	0	3	1	3	4	3

GROUP C Inter Milan v Real Madrid Spartak Moscow v Sturm Graz

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	4	3	0	1	14	4	9
Inter Milan	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Spartak Moscow	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Sturm Graz	4	0	4	0	2	14	0

GROUP D Bayern Munich v Borussia Dortmund Barcelona v Manchester United

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United	4	2	2	0	6	7	8
Bayern Munich	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Barcelona	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
Borussia Dortmund	4	1	0	3	4	14	3

GROUP E Arsenal v RC Lens Dynamo Kiev v Panathinaikos

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
Dynamo Kiev	4	1	2	1	6	5	5
RC Lens	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Arsenal	4	1	2	1	5	6	5

GROUP F HJK Helsinki v PSV Eindhoven Benfica v Kaiserslautern

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kaiserslautern	4	3	1	0	6	2	10
HJK Helsinki	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Benfica	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
PSV Eindhoven	4	1	0	3	5	8	3

Dinamo boss admits his sins

BUCHAREST, Nov 24 (Reuters/Internet): The former head of Dinamo Bucharest, on trial for embezzlement, has admitted paying bribes to secure victories for the club, the judge trying the case said on Tuesday.

Military Judge Horatiu Filimon said Vasile Ianul had made the revelations at his trial on charges of embezzling more than \$2.3 million during his tenure as club president from 1991 to 1993.

The revelations, he said, had prompted the court to charge Ianul with the more serious crime of financial fraud, which carries a sentence of 10 to 20 years in prison.

"Ianul admitted in court that his club spent large sums of money in order to help it win matches," Filimon told Reuters.

Filimon said he had also acknowledged offering money to certain clubs to keep Dinamo's main rival, Steaua Bucharest, out of European competition -- a large source of income from UEFA bonuses and television rights.

Ianul, he said, admitted providing money to Interior Ministry officials and senior police officers in the early post-communist period to help finance their activities abroad.

He said Ianul gave \$60,000 to finance a Romanian team attending a police sports meeting in Italy.

Other sums went towards projects with little connection with sport, including contacts with the international police

organisation Interpol.

"None of the payments was done through the banking system," he said. "It was all cash, with no documents."

Ianul was detained last week for failing to attend two years of court hearings. As a police colonel, his case is being heard by a military judge.

The charges stem from the disappearance of money in connection with the transfer of players abroad, which generated revenue of about \$5 million for the club in the early 1990s.

No investigation was conducted into Dinamo's affairs by the Romanian Soccer Federation or the Sports Ministry. An Interior Ministry inquiry revealed no irregularities.

Romanian media have for months alleged that several first division teams have engaged in a "cooperative" in which they agreed the outcome of matches in advance, to help clubs enter European competitions or avoid relegation. Soccer authorities deny the allegations and proof has been hard to come by.

Dinamo won their last national title in 1992 after a tough race with Steaua, who had previously won six titles in a row.

Under communist rule, Dinamo and Steaua were under the strict control of the Interior and Defence Ministries and have retained their links, though in altered form, since the 1989 execution of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Call for more fouls!

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 24 (Reuters/Internet): Palmeiras coach Luiz Felipe Scolari admitted on Tuesday he had told his players to commit fouls as the Brazilian title race reached its climax.

"Nobody can afford to lose now so I'm asking my players to commit more fouls in midfield without injuring anyone," the abrasive Scolari, popularly known as Big Phil (Felipao), told the sports daily Lance.

"The other coaches say they don't tell their players to do this. But the fact is that I'm stupid because I tell the truth while the others lie."

Scolari is Brazil's second most successful coach this decade in terms of titles but has struggled to shake off the stigma that his teams play violently.

He was caught by a touchline microphone giving similar instructions on fouling to his players during a match against Vasco da Gama earlier this month.

Palmeiras have reached the quarter-finals of the Brazilian championship and need a draw at home against Cruzeiro on Thursday in their third and final leg of their tie to advance.

Brazilian domestic matches tend to be littered with fouls and the free kick tally can easily reach 60 or 70 by the end of a match.

Barca coach comes down hard on Baia

BARCELONA, Nov 24 (Reuters/Internet): Barcelona coach Louis van Gaal dropped number two goalkeeper Vitor Baia from the first team squad on Tuesday for his criticism of man management at the club.

Portuguese international Baia, who has been on the Nou Camp sidelines for 18 months since the arrival of Dutchman Ruud Hesp, complained on Monday that "the treatment of players here is sadly very poor considering the size of the club".

Van Gaal was quick to stamp out indiscipline in the ranks, calling up Spanish under-21 international Javier Arnau as cover for Hesp for the European Champions' League clash with Manchester United on Wednesday.

Baia, who was targeted by AC Milan at the start of the season but opted instead to stay and fight for the gloves, now seems certain to be on his way out of the Nou Camp.

Old Trafford capacity to be increased

LONDON, Nov 24 (Reuters/Internet): Manchester United said on Tuesday they had received planning permission to increase the capacity of Old Trafford to 67,400 seats from 55,000.

Work on the East stand is scheduled to start in May, 1999, at the end of the

1998-99 season and work is expected to be completed in time for the start of the 2000-01 season, it said in a statement.

The extension will cost an estimated 30 million pounds (\$49.62 million).

Torpedo get new coach

MOSCOW, Nov 24 (Reuters/Internet): Torpedo Moscow have ended a three-week search by naming Vitaly Shevchenko as their new coach, the club announced on Tuesday.

Shevchenko, who guided Uralan Elista to seventh place in their first year in the premier division, succeeded veteran coach Valentin Ivanov, who resigned at the end of the Russian season.

"Shevchenko had signed a one year contract with our club," said Torpedo spokesman Sergei Borisov.

Torpedo, who finished a disappointing 11th place in the 16-team premier division this season, had been linked with Georgy Yartsev, coach of city rivals Dynamo.

Yartsev, who took over the militia side in mid-season, submitted his resignation to Dynamo's Board of Directors last week but it was rejected.

Army b'ball

Bangladesh Army beat Bangladesh Navy 58-48 points of the inter-service basketball championship at the Kurmitola yesterday, reports BSS.

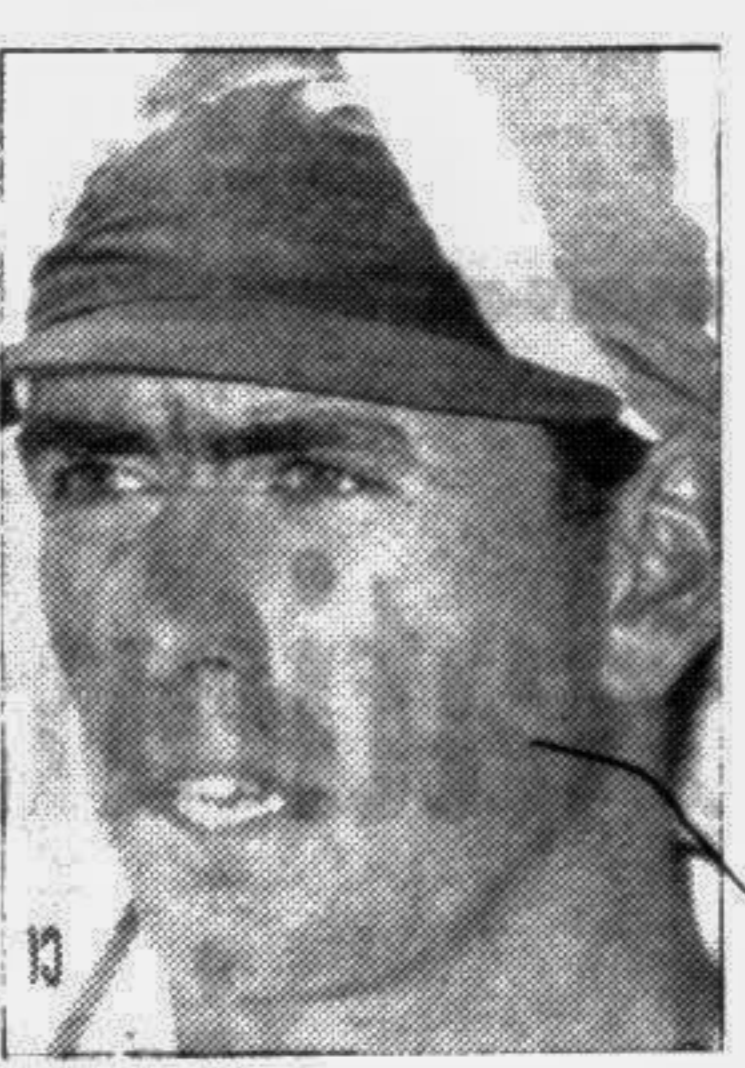
Hansie hopes for the best

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 24 (Reuters/Internet): South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje said on Tuesday that he hoped the historic West Indian tour of South Africa would help attract more blacks to the game.

The two sides meet in their first ever Test match on South African soil at the Wanderers stadium in Johannesburg on Thursday, and Cronje said he believed the tour was probably the most eagerly awaited cricket tour since South Africa's readmittance to world cricket in 1992 after the apartheid-induced sports boycott.

"Obviously it would be nice to see some of the black guys out to watch their heroes and role models," Cronje said before an afternoon practice. "When I go into supermarkets people come up to me and ask how [South African black fast bowler] Makhaya Ntini is doing and when is [West Indies captain Brian] Lara coming over."

"That's why it's fantastic from that point of view. Ever



HANSIE CRONJE

since 1992, whenever you walk into a pub or a restaurant people ask you 'When are you going to play the West Indies?'"

For Cronje the prospect of taking on the Caribbean Islanders is also a personal dream come true. "I've watched them play

throughout my career and to be able to have the West Indies here for the first time since isolation is incredible," Cronje added. "It is simply magnificent."

Cronje compared the influence of the West Indies in cricket to that of golf sensation Tiger Woods in his sport.

"What Tiger Woods has done for golf the West Indies has been doing for cricket for a long time," Cronje said.

The West Indian tour of South Africa has been hailed as one of the most important tours in South Africa since re-admission and is seen as the country's final abolition.

With five matches being played in black townships, the United Cricket Board of South Africa are also using the tour to help promote cricket among blacks.

The West Indies are scheduled to play five Tests and seven one-day internationals against South Africa in their four month tour. The only other time the two sides have ever met was in 1992 in Bridgetown when the West Indies came from behind to win by 52 runs.



Spikers of Brazil congratulate each other after their win against Cuba in the quarterfinal round of the World Volleyball Championships at Osaka, Japan yesterday. Brazil triumphed 15-11, 15-7, 15-2. — AFP photo

Ode to unpredictability

NEW YORK, Nov 24 (Reuters/Internet): Second-ranked Martina Hingis topped world number one

Lindsay Davenport in the Chase Championships final on Sunday to close out a most unpredictable women's tennis season in which rivalries were born and reborn, and dreams came true.

"Overall it was the most interesting year in women's tennis for a decade," said last year's Championships winner Jana Novotna, who lost in the first round to old nemesis Steffi Graf.

"We had changes in rankings, we had four different Grand Slam champions. If you compare that to a couple of years ago when we had such a dominating era with Steffi and Monica (Seles), I think this year was the most interesting and the best year for the women's game," added the world number three.

Eighth-ranked Nathalie Tauziat, who reached her first Grand Slam final at Wimbledon at the age of 30, agreed: "Now you have like 10 or 15 players who can be number one so it is completely different from five, 10 years ago."

In 1997, Hingis did her best Steffi Graf impression as she reached all four Grand Slam finals, winning three, finished with 12 titles, became the youngest player ever ranked number one at 16 and firmly declared that she had no rivals.

But as 1998 concluded with Hingis ending a six-month title drought, she found herself looking up the rankings ladder at Davenport and predicting a lively rivalry that will energise a women's tennis scene suddenly brimming with promising, young talent and estab-

lished champions.

"She is the eighth player to be number one and she deserves that right now," Hingis said of Davenport. "I have been up there so I want to get it back."

Davenport holds a scant 7-6 edge in career meetings with Hingis, 3-2 this year.

"Right now we are the most solid players on the Tour," said the typically undiplomatic Hingis, now 18.

"We have been pretty even this year. I think we are going to have more great matches against each other," she predicted.

"There is no doubt she is going to be back to number one or definitely a threat in the next year," Davenport, either the most laid-back or least confidant player ever to hold the top ranking, said of Hingis.

The year began pretty much as a continuation of the previous campaign with Hingis successfully defending her Australian Open title. But after that, all bets were off.

Aranza Sanchez Vicario, written off as washed up last year, won her third French Open by beating Seles in the final -- a battle of former number ones -- as the game's cocky teenagers watched from the sidelines.

Seles, following the death of her father, was ready to concentrate on her tennis again and a rejuvenated Sanchez Vicario made her move back into the top five.