

Sport

Marshall blasts his boys

DURBAN, South Africa, December 27 (Reuters/Internet): West Indies coach Malcolm Marshall lambasted his batsmen for another poor performance on the opening day of the third Test against South Africa on Saturday.

"We've played two Test matches and one innings and we've batted badly in every one of them," an angry Marshall said.

"I didn't think the South African bowling was particularly good and it was the best wicket to bat on so far this series."

"We were 50 for none against Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock, their best bowlers, and then we lost 10 wickets for 148," Marshall said.

"On that sort of surface that's just bad batting — a lack of application and poor shot selection — as it has been for most of the tour."

"You can't score runs if you don't spend time at the crease." Marshall refused to divert the blame for the low West Indies' totals in the series away from the specialist batsmen.

"You can't expect number eight, nine, 10 and 11 to do batsmen's jobs," he said.

"The South African top order batsmen have also not done their jobs, so they're relying on the other players to pull them out of (trouble) all the time."

Lankan exodus down under

COLOMBO, Dec 27 (AFP): Two of Sri Lanka's Asian Games sprint champions will train in Australia next year, while another top athlete plans to go abroad to escape "harassment" from athletics officials, reports said today.

Damayanthi Dharsha, the women's 200m and 400m gold medalist at the Asian Games in Bangkok, and men's 400m champion Sudath Thillekera will leave in January for a three-month training programme at the invitation of the Melbourne Track Club, the Sunday Times quoted officials as saying.

Controversial sprint star Susanthika Jayasinghe, who was a last-minute scratch from the women's 200m final, has also announced her intention to shift her training base away from Sri Lanka to escape "harassment" from athletics and sports ministry officials following her withdrawal from the 200m at the event.

Jayasinghe, who withdrew from the 200m after injuring a hamstring in a qualifier, upset the Sri Lankan contingent at this month's Asian Games and opened the door for Dharsha's surprise victory in the event.

Jayasinghe, the world 200m silver medalist and Sri Lanka's best hope for Olympic glory, said last week she wants to escape "harassment" by local athletic and sports ministry officials following her withdrawal.

"There was a lot of discrimination against me at the Asian Games," Jayasinghe said.

"This aggravated my injury. Even my coach was harassed."

Jayasinghe's coach of less than six months DM Disanayake, quit following Jayasinghe's pullout from the event.

The 23-year-old became an overnight heroine last year in this island nation of 18.3 million people when she won Sri Lanka's first world athletics medal.

Things soon turned sour, however, as she was first reported to be an army deserter and then went public with claims that a Sri Lankan government minister sexually harassed her.

Another minister defended his colleague, stating that Jayasinghe was "mentally deranged" and looked like a "Black American youth."

Then followed a positive test for anabolic steroid.

Jayasinghe claimed she was the victim of Sri Lankan sports officials trying to force her to take drugs.

Meanwhile, she struggled to make ends meet after losing her sponsors.

In August, the tide turned in her favour when an independent Sri Lankan appeals panel cleared her of drug abuse.

Unhappy with the appeals panel's decision, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has set up a new board to re-examine the case.

Sydney smiling at Capriati

SYDNEY, Dec 27 (AFP/Internet): Jennifer Capriati has received a wild card into the qualifying rounds of next month's Adidas International tennis tournament at White City.

Capriati, 22, who beat Steffi Graf to win gold at the Barcelona Olympics, dropped off the WTA tour in late 1993 before a well-publicised arrest for shoplifting and a reprimand for marijuana possession.

She returned to tournament play at White City in 1997 in style, defeating Chanda Rubin, Renay Simpson, Amy Frazier and current world No. 1 Lindsay Davenport en route to a losing final appearance against Martina Hingis.

With her ranking now No. 100, the New Yorker is heading to the scene of her last tournament victory, way back in 1993.

"It's in my blood so I think I have to play," the former world No. 6 said from the United States.

"It's a personal challenge to myself plus I have come to a decision that I want to be back."

"I'm going to give it my all, I'm going to do everything I can to reach my highest level."

"I can't really explain it but it gives me the most fun to be back ... to know that you are good at something is exciting."

Qualifying rounds for men and women will be played at White City from Jan. 8-10, with main draw matches also scheduled for Jan. 10.



FIERY FRANKLYN: West Indies fast bowler Franklyn Rose is congratulated by a teammate after getting a wicket during his six-wicket haul on Day Two of the third Test against South Africa at Durban yesterday. — Internet photo

Rhodes resists rampant Rose

DURBAN, South Africa, Dec 27 (Reuters/Internet): Jonty Rhodes stroked an unbeaten 85 to give South Africa the edge over West Indies in the face of inspired fast bowling by Franklyn Rose in the third Test on Sunday.

Rose captured a Test career-best of six for 75 as South Africa scored 292 for eight in reply to West Indies' first innings of 198 before bad light ended play 13.4 overs early on the second day.

Rhodes, timing and placing the ball beautifully in his 123-ball innings containing eight fours and two sixes, was the dominant figure in a South African fightback after they were reduced to 80 for three during the morning session.

Daryll Cullinan (40) and captain Hansie Cronje (30) launched the recovery which was sustained by Rhodes and all-rounder Shaun Pollock (30) in a sixth wicket partnership of 80.

West Indies, already trailing 2-0 in the five-Test series, needed to make early inroads when South Africa resumed at the overnight 46 without loss.

Rose did the perfect job with a spell of 11-2-30-3 in which he dismissed Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs and Jacques Kallis as the home country declined from 57 for no wicket to

80 for three. South Africa suffered their first loss in the fourth over when Gibbs clipped a ball off his toes which flew to Philo Wallace at wide mid-on. Gibbs played solidly for his 35 in 80 minutes off 58 balls.

Kirsten edged a bouncing delivery to Carl Hooper at second slip to be out for 26, then two overs after that Kallis played an expansive drive and was caught behind by Ridley Jacobs for 11. Cullinan and Cronje put on 60 for the fourth wicket before the South African skipper failed to move his feet to a delivery from Courtney Walsh that cut back to bowl him between bat and pad.

Cullinan and Rhodes then added 42 for the fifth wicket, a stand which ended needlessly when Cullinan was run out while going for a second. Rose, fielding at third man, scrambled around the boundary to field the ball and fired in a pinpoint throw to Jacobs.

South Africa were then 182 for five but Rhodes and Pollock frustrated West Indies' hopes of conceding only a narrow lead with their brisk partnership of 80.

It ended when Rose had Pollock brilliantly caught at second slip by Hooper, diving full length to his right to hold the ball one-handed.

Three balls later, Mark

Boucher had his off stump uprooted by an inswinging delivery from Rose, who completed his day of personal triumph by yorking Pat Symcox for 12.

The Jamaican pacesman beat his previous Test best of six for 100, which he took on his debut against India at Kingston in 1997.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the second day of the third Test between South Africa and West Indies at Kingsmead on Sunday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 198				
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 46-0)				
G Kirsten c Hooper b Rose	26			
H Gibbs c Wallace b Rose	35			
J Kallis c Jacobs b Rose	11			
D Cullinan run out	40			
W Cronje b Walsh	30			
R Rhodes not out	85			
S Pollock c Hooper b Rose	30			
M Boucher b Rose	0			
P Symcox b Rose	12			
A Donald not out	1			
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-12, w-1)	22			
Total: (For eight wickets)	292			
To bat: D Terbrugge				
Fall of wks: 1-57; 2-79; 3-80; 4-140; 5-182; 6-262; 7-262; 8-284				
Bowler (to date)	O	M	R	W
Ambrose	17	1	60	0
Walsh	27	6	60	1
Rose	25.2	6	75	6
Lewis	20	2	70	0
Hooper	4	0	18	0

Ganguly to host charity auction

NEW DELHI, Dec 27 (India Abroad News Service): He has been the toast of Calcutta since he blasted his way to his first century in the Lord's Test in 1996. Now, with plans of spearheading charity to help the children of leprosy victims, Saurav Ganguly, nick-named the "Prince of Calcutta", can only end himself more to the people of the sports-crazy eastern metropolis. Ganguly and Manoj Khanna, a cosmetic surgeon and cricket commentator, have fused their efforts to raise money for the children faced with an uncertain future as their leprosy-afflicted parents are still ostracised by society.

They are to hold an auction of mementos from cricket greats and give the money to voluntary agencies that run homes for children of leprosy patients. The Pioneer newspaper reported.

Ganguly is to conduct the auction himself. Khanna expects the charity to raise about 1.5 million rupees (35,000 dollars). Among the memorabilia to go under the hammer before the India-Pakistan Test series kicks off in Calcutta in February will be the bat with which Ganguly scored the century at Lord's, a bat signed by the 1983 World Cup-winning Indian squad and mementos from West Indian cricketers Brian Lara and V.S. Chandrapaul as well as Pakistani players Wasim Akram and Aamir Sohail. The star attraction will however be something else. "We will get a bat signed by Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev and Sachin Tendulkar, the three all-time greats of Indian cricket," Khanna told

the paper.

"All three have agreed and that would be a major draw. There won't be anybody who is a somebody who will not be interested in this bat," he added.

Nunez hopes to bury the hatchet

BARCELONA, Spain, Dec 27 (Reuters/Internet): Barcelona president Josep Lluís Nunez said on Saturday he had written to former club coach Johan Cruyff to end a long dispute.

Nunez said he hoped for some form of reconciliation with Cruyff to end differences which have persisted between the two men for the past 2-1/2 years.

Cruyff, the Dutch former World Cup star who also played for Barcelona, has been a bitter and constant critic of Nunez since he was sacked in May 1996.

"But the Dutchman is still a legend to Barcelona fans for guiding the Catalan club to the European Cup title in 1992."

The two men have even taken each other to court but a recent judgement awarded each man one peseta each and the judge told them that they were being ridiculous in their actions.

As part of a severance package Cruyff is due to have two testimonial games and Nunez said he would like to have them played as part of Barcelona's current centenary celebrations.

Khanna had approached Ganguly with the idea of such an auction during the Willis International Cup in Dhaka in October this year. The star batsman apparently jumped at the opportunity to do his bit for his native city. Ganguly told him that he was "more than keen" and would be "available for anything good in Calcutta".

Khanna said, "I met a host of players in Dhaka and all of them gave me a positive response." The surgeon said, "Chandrapaul opened his kit for me asked me to take whatever I wanted," he added.

"I had a long chat with Gavaskar in Dhaka," he recalled. "He said he did not have a bat to spare and that the only over he had were those with which he had scored his first Test hundred in the West Indies in 1971 and the one with which he got to the 10,000-run mark."

"He said that his family is extremely possessive about these two bats and he could not part with them. But Gavaskar said he would definitely hunt out something which would be of interest at the auction," Khanna added. The children of leprosy victims are orphaned by society and do not have parental support," Khanna explained.

"We intend to send the money to homes which take care of such children," he added.

This would be the second such event in Calcutta. Australian captain Steve Waugh earlier this year helped raise money for leprosy patients in a home called Udayan in the city run by a non-governmental organisation.

PCB to renew contract with Miandad

LAHORE, Dec 27 (The Dawn/Internet): Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) council, besides deciding captain and manager of the Pakistan team for the upcoming Indian tour, will approve the extension of contract with coach Javed Miandad when it meets at Lahore on January 3.

Pakistan is touring India next month to play first Asian Test Championship involving Sri Lanka. Pakistan will also play separate Test series and one-day matches against India.

According to agenda, the meeting will consider new captain of the team along with the existing captain Aamir Sohail under whose captaincy Pakistan won the third Sahara Cup at Toronto (Canada), beating India 4-1 in five-match series.

But Pakistan lost home Test and one-day series to Australia (1-0) and Test series to Zimbabwe (1-0) under Sohail captaincy. Former captains Wasim Akram and Moin Khan are other players in the run for captaincy. However, Wasim Akram's chances are bleak as he is facing betting allegations and one-man commission headed by Justice Abdul Qayyum is investigating into the scandal.

Contract of Javed Miandad has been pending since his assignment as coach when Pakistan toured Canada. The decision whether to continue Azhar Zaidi as manager of the team or not will also be taken in the meeting. Azhar Zaidi has also been continuing as manager of the team since Canada's tour.

Wasim Bhatti who was the manager of Pakistan 'A' team which recently toured New Zealand will present his report about the tour to the council.

At the close, New Zealand were 290 for seven.

The gallant pair of tail-enders had to negotiate the second ball and a fair number of short-pitched balls by Jagavallu Srinath, who had bowled his heart out for little reward.

The second new ball, rather than keep the initiative with India, helped Nash and Vettori accelerate the scoring. The 81 runs they put on in the last session came off 22 overs.

New Zealand coach Steve Rixon was delighted with the Nash-Vettori partnership.

"A lead of 150 would be ideal, but we'll be happy with what we get and we certainly won't try and grind out runs. We will play positively," he said.

Nash and Vettori provided a second large swing of the pendulum during the day. In the two hours before lunch and tea, India who were bowled out for a paltry 208, had taken four wickets to get on even terms.

New Zealand were well set for a big first innings on 132

when England omitted Tudor after his thrilling Test debut at Perth, where his figures were 5-108.

It was an open secret that he would be back for the Fourth Test.

One big note of encouragement for England captain Alec Stewart ought to be Tudor's claims that he will not be fazed by the intimidating atmosphere of the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Big Alex said: "As someone who loves watching football, I've seen a few stadiums."

"However, none of them compare with this, where it's not unusual for daily crowds of between 70,000 and 80,000."

"I'd love to perform in a big arena, and there's none better or bigger than the MCG. I'm told there can be such a din from the vast concrete basin that it's hard to hear what's being said in the middle!"

"But that won't worry me. What an opportunity for a 21-year-old to be playing his second Test on a ground with so much great cricket history."

"I look at the honours boards in the pavilion here and you see legendary names from past Ashes battles... men like Wilfred Rhodes, Frank Tyson, and Ian Botham for England, and Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson for the Aussies. I just think how wonderful if I get my name up there."

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