



Australian leg-spinners Shane Warne (L) and Stuart MacGill during practice at the Sydney Cricket Stadium yesterday. — Internet photo

## Proteas plan more to do

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Jan 1: The series is already over as a contest but South Africa captain Hansie Cronje is bent on total domination of West Indies and a 5-0 clean sweep of the Tests, reports Reuters.

Touring captain Brian Lara, by contrast, is desperate to rekindle the team spirit of his demoralised players in the fourth Test starting in Cape Town tomorrow.

But his task has been made even harder by the absence of Courtney Walsh because of a hamstring injury and doubts over Walsh's new ball partner Curtly Ambrose who has knee and back problems.

South Africa's nine-wicket win in Durban on Tuesday earned them a 3-0 lead and victory at the earliest opportunity in the first post-apartheid tour of the republic by West Indies.

The tourists had gone down by four wickets in the first Test and by 178 runs in the second.

A sign of South Africa's clear superiority is that only the first Test has reached the fifth day. The Port Elizabeth match was concluded as early as 30 minutes after tea on the third.

"We are getting stronger, but the only time I will be satisfied is when we reach the pinnacle of Test cricket," Cronje said.

"We didn't plan to finish the series this early, but we did plan to play 25 days of solid cricket and there are still 10 days left. So we are going out there to win the next two Tests."

South Africa coach Bob Woolmer says his team's sparkling form had its roots in their series defeat in England this year.

"I think the West Indies have

suffered the backlash of our failure in England, where I believe we should have won," Woolmer said. "We've come back much stronger and the West Indies have felt that."

"We've got into winning positions now and are actually nailing them down."

The only change to the South Africa squad sees all-rounder Lance Klusener returning from ankle surgery at the expense of off-spinner Pat Symcox, clearing the way for left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams to play on his home ground.

"Pat will be missed but we need new blood and we need to get Paul on to the field and taking wickets," Woolmer said. "He will be a vital cog in South Africa's wheel over the next 10 years, I'm sure."

The only choice facing the South Africans is between Klusener, among the most explosive players in the game with both bat and ball, and fast bowler David Terbrugge.

Ambrose, 35, and Walsh, 36, have taken 740 Test wickets between them but Lara is hopeful

that Franklyn Rose, who took career-best figures of 7-84, in the first innings at Kingsmead in his first Test of the series, could represent the next generation of world class West Indian pacemen.

"Franklyn needs to keep his consistency up," Lara said.

"Forget the state of the series — he's got four innings to go against the South African batsmen to try and take as many wickets as possible and improve his confidence."

The series defeat has prompted a self-analysis by the West Indians. "The management can talk to the players until they're blue in the face, but it's still up to those players themselves to know that our people expect them to give their best," Lara said.

"South Africa have outplayed us in all three Test matches — we've got to face that fact, pick ourselves up and play good cricket."

"I still maintain that if we bat properly, with the way our guys are bowling, we can win matches in South Africa."

### SQUADS

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (captain), Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Allan Donald, Paul Adams, David Terbrugge, 12th man: Ashwell Prince.

**WEST INDIES:** Clayton Lambert, Philo Wallace, Brian Lara (captain), Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Carl Hooper, Stuart Williams, Darren Ganga, Floyd Reifer, Ridley Jacobs, Nixon McLean, Rawl Lewis, Curtly Ambrose, Mervyn Dillon, Franklyn Rose, Junior Murray.

HANSIE CRONJE

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## UCB accused of racism

CAPE TOWN, Jan 1: Instead of dancing in the streets, South Africa's triumph over the West Indies has provoked a political row, reports AFP.

Sports Minister Steve Tshwete hammered the national selectors after South Africa had completed their third successive Test victory over the once-mighty tourists on Tuesday, clinching the series.

Tshwete said the selectors had not picked enough black cricketers for the fourth Test which starts at Newlands here on Saturday.

"The series was already in the bag — this was a good opportunity to let a talented youngster have a chance to play," he said.

Tshwete claimed the repeated exclusion of black players from the national side was denying them the chance to improve skills and gain experience.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board (UCB), said he was disappointed by Tshwete's comments. He planned to challenge the Minister when the pair attended a black cricket tournament in the eastern Cape Town of Fort Beaufort late Thursday.

"The politicians must have confidence in us," said Bacher.

For Bacher and his fellow cricket administrators, recent criticism has come as a shock. Previously, cricket was hailed as a model sport because of its commitment to black development.

Tshwete himself chaired the talks between rival black and white cricket bodies which led to the formation of the United Cricket Board in 1991.

A picture of Tshwete shedding tears of joy as he hugged batsman Peter Kirsten after South Africa had beaten champions Australia in their first World Cup match in Sydney in 1992 epitomised cricket's status as a unifying force in the new South Africa.

Ironically, at the time it was an all-white team with no player of colour anywhere near contention for a place in the side.

In the past year, though, four "black" cricketers have represented the country, including fast bowler Makhaya Ntini, the first black African to play Test cricket for South Africa.

Coloured (mixed-race) cricketers Herschelle Gibbs and Paul Adams have also played in Tests and have both been selected for Saturday's game.

Roger Telemachus, another coloured, played in one-day international.

National age group teams have become racially mixed, with an average of about 40 per cent black players. Thami Tsolekile, a black African from Langa township near Cape Town, will captain the South African under-19 team of a tour of Pakistan at the end of January.

Bacher's statement in March that in 1998 you cannot have an all-white national team was thrown back in his face when an all-white side played in the first Test against the West Indies.

Gibbs was added to the team for the second Test and the UCB drew up guidelines for the national selectors who were told they should include players of colour in national teams, a monitoring committee was set up with the power to request the selectors to think again, or, when a series was already decided, to direct them to pick players of colour.

Both Gibbs and Adams were picked for Newlands. Peter Pollock, convenor of selectors, said his panel had been under no instructions.

The monitoring committee

approved the team but this did not satisfy Tshwete or fellow African national congress politician Muleki George, chairman of the country's over-riding sports body, the National Sports Council.

George sent out a warning this week: The time is drawing near when we will have to take action."

Meanwhile, all South African provincial cricket teams playing first-class cricket will in future include players of colour, Bacher said Thursday.

This change, Bacher told the SAPA news agency after holding talks here with sports Minister Steve Tshwete, would "no doubt filter through to the Test team."

Bacher and Tshwete spoke for an hour behind closed doors in this eastern Cape province town, where both are attending a four-day cricket week.

After the meeting, Bacher announced that the board would issue a special charter which outlined the transformation of South African cricket and the visions held by the board for South Africa.

The transformation charter would be unveiled at Newlands on Sunday, he added.

### Euro club rankings

## Bayern remain on top

LONDON, Jan 1: Manchester United returned to the top 20 of the European club rankings.

The 3-0 home win over Nottingham Forest followed by a

goalless draw away at champions rivals Chelsea took them from 21st to 19th in the table. Porto dropped from 19th to 20th while Wisla Krakow of Poland fell out of the top 20.

With only English and Scottish leagues in action over the holiday period, there were few changes in the overall rankings.

| Club                     | Country    | Points |
|--------------------------|------------|--------|
| (1) Bayern Munich        | Germany    | 100.94 |
| (2) Parma                | Italy      | 89.53  |
| (3) Olympique Marseille  | France     | 88.46  |
| (4) Fiorentina           | Italy      | 87.33  |
| (5) Girondins Bordeaux   | France     | 86.13  |
| (6) Bayer Leverkusen     | Germany    | 84.19  |
| (7) Dynamo Kiev          | Ukraine    | 81.93  |
| (8) AS Roma              | Italy      | 81.62  |
| (9) Inter Milan          | Italy      | 81.08  |
| (10) Lazio               | Italy      | 80.92  |
| (11) Real Mallorca       | Spain      | 77.41  |
| (12) Rosenborg Trondheim | Norway     | 76.94  |
| (13) Dinamo Bucharest    | Romania    | 76.91  |
| (14) Bologna             | Italy      | 76.89  |
| (15) AC Milan            | Italy      | 76.08  |
| (16) Celtic Vigo         | Spain      | 73.99  |
| (17) Partizan Belgrade   | Yugoslavia | 73.90  |
| (18) Rapid Bucharest     | Romania    | 73.64  |
| (19) Manchester United   | England    | 73.03  |
| (20) Porto               | Portugal   | 72.75  |

## Tasmania fightback

HOBART, Jan 1 (Reuters/Internet): Tasmania recovered from a shaky start to dominate the opening day of their Sheffield Shield match against Victoria state on Friday.

The Tasmanians recovered from losing their first two wickets for 17 and a midday collapse when they lost three for 11 to finish the day at 293 for five.

The innings was built on the back of two big partnerships. Jamie Cox (77) and Shaun Young (76) shared in a 153-run stand for the third wicket before former test batsman David Boon (36 not out) and Daniel Marsh (77 not out) added an unbeaten 112 to see the home team through to the close.

Ricky Ponting, who was dropped from the Australian side after the third Ashes test, failed again, making just nine runs before he was caught at third slip.

Cox and Young began cautiously before accelerating the run rate during the middle session against a heavily-weakened Victorian side.

They took the score from 17 to 170 before the Victorians struck back with three quick wickets to reduce Tasmania to 181 for five.

Boon, Australia's third highest test runscorer, joined Marsh, son of former wicket-keeping great Rodney Marsh, in a crucial stand that turned the match Tasmania's way.

Boon adopted the more careful approach while Marsh went after the bowlers, hitting 11 fours on his way to 77 in 112 minutes.

## Juve pencil Kluivert

ROME, Jan 1: Thwarted in attempts to sign Frenchman Christian Dugary and Turk Hakan Sukur, Italian champions Juventus have now switched their attention to Barcelona's Patrick Kluivert, the Corriere dello Sport newspaper reported Thursday, says AFP.

The Italian championship resumes on January 6 and Juventus are desperate to boost their attacking stocks before then. Alessandro Del Piero is out for the season after undergoing surgery on his left knee.

Dutch World Cup star Kluivert left AC Milan at the start of the season to join Barcelona, but has not been a success with the Catalan club.

Juventus' bid to sign Dugary from Marseille fell through on Wednesday while Sukur, who plays for Galatasaray, has also proved a reluctant target.

## Roger still upbeat

HOUSTON, Jan 1: Promoter Roger Levitt remained upbeat Thursday about the prospects for the George Foreman-Larry Holmes fight set for January 23, although it was unclear whether he had met financial

deadline requirements. "The fight is doing fine," Levitt said at midday. "We believe the fight is 100 per cent on. We're doing some financial machinations with George and Larry. We're confident by the close of business Monday, we'll be OK."

Foreman is to receive 10 million dollars and Holmes 4 million dollars and both have said they would not take less for the fight. The status of the bout was clouded when one of its major backers pulled out last week. Levitt said a replacement

backer had been located this week. So far, Foreman has received 1 million dollars and Holmes 400,000 dollars — both non-refundable.

The promoter was supposed to file letters of credit assuring the purses of the two ex-heavyweight champions by the close of business Thursday.

"We had an extension for the letters of credit until the close of business Los Angeles time," he said. "We might need another extension."

There's been amazing good will by the fighters. Everybody wants this fight to take place. In my honest opinion, it will. I believe the fight will happen because they want it to happen."

Levitt was unavailable late Thursday afternoon to say whether he had the letters of credit in place.

## Rangers move ahead

GLASGOW, Jan 1: A last minute goal from Rod Wallace gave Rangers a 2-1 win at Dundee United on Wednesday and sent them into the new year six points clear of Kilmarnock at the top of the Scottish premier league, reports Reuters.

The striker netted a 90th minute volley from Gabriel Amato's cross to take his side onto 43 points from 20 games. Kilmarnock have 37 while champions Celtic have 33.

It was Wallace's 17 goal of the season.

Rangers had gone ahead with defender Scott Wilson's 33rd minute header but Billy Dods, the Dundee striker, equalised for Dundee United in the 43rd minute with a shot on the turn.

Hearts slumped to their fourth league defeat in a row when they lost 2-1 at home to Dundee.

To make matters worse, Hearts had defender David Weir sent off during the game and goalkeeper Gilles Roussel red carded at the end for dissent to referees Hugh Dallas.

Weir was dismissed in the 18th minute for chopping down Dundee striker James Grady, allowing Lee Sharp to score with a penalty.

Derek Lilley, signed on loan from Leeds United earlier on Wednesday, equalised for Hearts in the 37th minute but Willie Falconer's glancing header in the 42nd minute ensured Dundee joined Hearts on 23 points, with a game in hand.



Yokohama Flügels captain-to-be Motohiro Yamaguchi holds up the Emperor's Cup after the final against Shimizu S-Pulse in Tokyo yesterday. Yokohama won 2-1. — AFP photo

## FA Cup kicks off today

LONDON, Jan 1 (Reuters/Internet): For undisclosed reasons, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has tipped Charlton Athletic to win the FA Cup this season.

A tricky visit to Blackburn Rovers this Saturday, though, could eliminate the London side by the time Arsenal begin the defence of the trophy they won last May.

Charlton, whose only FA Cup final success was their 1-0 win over Burnley in 1947 during a match when the ball burst, travel to Blackburn Rovers in one of only two third round ties between two premier league teams on Saturday.

Charlton have lost their last seven matches and, despite Wenger's optimistic backing, will do well to escape from Ewood Park with as much as a draw following the mini-revival underway there since Brian Kidd became manager a month ago.

Arsenal, who won the Cup for the seventh time when they defeated Newcastle United 2-0 to complete the double at Wembley, must wait until Monday night before they start the defence of the trophy against Preston North End in an intriguing tie at Deepdale.

Preston completed the first double in 1888-89, the first season of league football, and after years in the doldrums they are enjoying a revival and pushing for promotion from the second division.

Arsenal should win, but are no strangers to big Cup defeats as losers to York City and Wrexham in the last 15 years have proved.

For once the third round draw did not provide its usual number of potential giant-killing ties, but there are still some intriguing matches to savour.

Premier League leaders Aston Villa, who have not won the Cup or appeared in the final since their seventh success in 1957, face Hull City, currently the 92nd and bottom club in the league.

Villa manager John Gregory says he will send his team out with instructions to score as many goals as possible against the league's basement side in a bid to keep their confidence high going into the second half of the season. Anything other than a Villa win by at least four goals will be a major shock.

Leeds United, looking for their first Cup Final success since their only win in 1972, face Rushden and Diamonds, an enterprising non-league club from rural Northamptonshire.

The match pits former Arsenal Cup winning teammates Brian Talbot, now the manager of Diamonds against David O'Leary, the manager of Leeds.

As Stevenage proved last season when they held Newcastle to a draw in the fourth round, Rushden could prove awkward opponents, but Leeds should triumph easily.

Newcastle, who eventually defeated Stevenage after a replay last year and went all the way to the final, face first division Crystal Palace at home.

In the early years of the century between 1905 and 1908 Newcastle lost three Cup finals in four years at the old Crystal Palace ground — one of the worst jinxes in Cup history.

Ninety years on, Newcastle should not have too much trouble with the modern Crystal Palace side, even though Newcastle will be missing the injured Duncan Ferguson.

Apart from the Blackburn-

Charlton tie, the only other game between two Premier League teams features Manchester United, who have won the FA Cup a record nine times, against Middlesbrough, who have never won the Cup and only appeared in the final for the first time in 1997.

This tie could prove tricky for United, who lost 3-2 at Old Trafford to Middlesbrough on December 19.

Middlesbrough's manager Bryan Robson captained United to three Cup final triumphs in the 1980s and 1990s but would love to leave his old club down and out at the first attempt.

Chelsea, Cup winners in 1997 and currently second in the Premier League, should have no trouble against Second Division Oldham who have fallen a long way since reaching the semi-finals in 1990 and 1994.

Tottenham Hotspur, who last won the Cup in 1991 and who have been rejuvenated since the arrival of manager George Graham in October, should also have no real trouble advancing against first division Watford at White Hart Lane.

Liverpool, who last won the Cup in 1992, should also come through against First Division Port Vale, although Port Vale lost to eventual winners Arsenal on penalties only after two drawn third round matches last season.

The one place where an upset could come is at The Dell where former Southampton favourite Kevin Keegan returns with his high-flying Second Division pace-setters Fulham.

Fulham have already knocked Southampton out of the League Cup this season, and the recent form of the two teams suggest Fulham could leave The Dell having secured a replay at least.

Since the English premier league began in the 1992-93 season, only two teams who led the table at the turn of the year went on to become champions: Manchester United in the 1993-94 season and Blackburn Rovers in 1994-95.

In 1992-93 Norwich were top and finished third, the same fate to befall Newcastle United in 1995-96. On January 1 1997 Liverpool were top and finished fourth, while last year Manchester United were top and finished second to Arsenal.

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## German team signs Cuban national Squad!

HAVANA, Jan 1 (Reuters/Internet): A German fourth division club, seeking to boost its promotion chances with an injection of Caribbean talent, has signed up most of the Cuban senior national squad.

Cuba's ruling Communist Party, which supervises sports on the island, announced the agreement on Thursday, telling the nation that football was "open to initiatives which, of course, do not harm its sovereignty or that of Cuban sport in general."

The 15 Cuban players, all over 25 and unknown internationally, will leave for Bonner SC, a small club from the city of Bonn, on Jan. 31, under a co-operation agreement between the German team and Cuba's state-run soccer federation.

The German (team) directors have deposited their entire trust in this "Cubanization" of Bonner in an attempt to rise immediately to the third division in a nation which is a world power in this sport," Communist Party daily Granma said.

"The explosiveness of the Caribbean footballer, and his speed, were virtues that surely caught the eye of the Bonn officials," those officials, however, clearly overlooked Cuba's poor football record.

While the island, with only 11 million inhabitants, has a remarkable athletics and baseball tradition — thanks in part to vigorous state promotion — its football team has not made inroads internationally. Under the scheme announced Thursday, Bonner SC will cover the Cubans' costs, and give them facilities and coaching. In return, the German club can field any of the players.

Bonner SC coach Rainer Thomas said recently that club bosses came up with the idea after watching a video of Cuba playing Brazil earlier this year. But he played down the idea that Cubans would take over the first team: "The chances of that are almost zero ... I think too many players in my team are too good for that to happen."

Bonner SC officials traveled to Havana earlier this month to clinch the deal, under which the Cubans will stay in Germany for the first half of the year before returning to play for Cuba in June's regional Caribbean Cup tournament.

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