Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek has questioned the International Tennis Federation's handling of the Petr Korda drug case and says players deserve more details on the incident, reports AP.

Korda is free to defend his Australian Open crown this month despite testing positive to the banned steroid Nandrolone at Wimbledon in July.

Most major sports, under International Olympic Commit-tee guidelines, ban first-time steroid offenders for two years. The ITF has yet to toe the IOC line but has provision for a maximum one-year suspen-

The ITF opted for its minimum penalty in sentencing Korda, accepting the player's claim that he took the drug unknowingly.

The 30-year-old Czech was stripped of 199 rankings points and 94,529 dollars prize money he earned at Wimbledon.

Krajicek said Monday the ITF needed to fully explain its lenient stance.

"Now is the time for the players to start asking ques-tions about what really happened," the world No. 10 said after a practice session at White City, venue for next week's adidas International.

"It's a very sensitive issue to talk about but I don't understand it. If he tested positive maybe he must have done it but maybe there must be another side to the story.

"Either you test positive or you don't and people should know exactly what went on."

Korda told London's Times newspaper last month that he had planned to retire but will continue playing because of the "black mark" on his name. Krajicek admitted it would

be hard for Korda to live the positive test down. "If the ITF really did make

some kind of mistake with the test it's very bad for Petr because now he's got the name and it's going to be very tough to shake it," Krajicek said.

Pierce sings for ladies tennis

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 4: Women's tennis has overtaken the men's game as an attraction, former Australian Open champion Mary Pierce of France said Monday, reports

The earlier blight of onesided matches in women's tennis has now been all but erased and a wealth of interesting personalities had enlivened its appeal, she said. "I love watching men's ten-

nis but nowadays I think women's tennis is much more exciting because there's so much more depth;" Pierce said. "Our top 20 girls are great

and can beat anyone on their day. There are no easy first rounds anymore. It keeps you on your toes and I think it's more exciting for the public."

Women's tennis has often been criticised for being too predictable and not worthy of equal prize money with the men in the grand slams.

Pierce, the top seed in this week's Australian women's hardcourt titles, said the equal prize money issue was one which continued to cause much discussion among women play-

Ranked seventh in the world, the Pierce won four titles in 1998 and reached the quarterfinals in the Australian Open which she won in 1995 for her only grand slam title.

A good year on and off the court, including her engagement to major league baseball player Roberto Alomar, has Pierce looking forward to 1999. "I had good year in all senses and I think I'm maturing as a

person and as a player," Pierce

Susanthika off to USA

COLOMBO, Jan 4: Sri Lanka's controversial sprinter, Susanthika Jayasinghe, has left for the United States for training, leaving behind lingering questions on why she pulled out of the Asian Games final. reports AP.

Jayasinghe came under public criticism after she withdrew from the 100- and 200-metre events at the Asian Games in Bangkok last month. A silver medalist in the 200 metres at the World Championships in Athens in 1997, she had been favoured to win both events in Bangkok.

She said she withdrew due to injury and not due to fear of competition as speculated by newspapers and sports officials. It was not immediately clear where in the US Jayasinghe was going, or how long she would be away. She left on Sunday.

I am hoping to enter a Californian university and undergo intensive training," she was quoted as saying by the Island newspaper.

The country's sports officials said she could still run for Sri Lanka.

"She has gone to better her career and we have no problem with it. When she comes back, she can represent the country," Ariya Kannangara, president of the Amateur Athletics Association of Sri Lanka was quoted as saying in the newspaper.

Jayasinghe first attracted controversy when she accused sport officials of sexual harassment, and said her image was being destroyed by unnamed top sports officials in the local sports association, National Olympic Committee

and the sports ministry. In April 1998, Jayasinghe tested positive for the steroid Nandroline. She has since been cleared by Sri Lankan athletics officials and is awaiting a final decision by the International Amateur Athletics Federation.

Krajicek wants clear answers Slater's close shave

SYDNEY, Jan 4 (Reuters/AP/Internet): Michael Slater, Australia's century saviour on the third day of the final Ashes Test against England, thought he had been run out for 35.

Slater, who had drove to mid-on and came back for a second run with Australia on 59 for two, appeared to be short of his ground after a direct throw from Dean Headley.

"I knew it was close - all direct hits are close - and there's no doubt I got the benefit of the doubt simply because of the camera angles, but the umpire can only make a judgement on what he sees," the opener said. "I think if you're going to

have the third umpire then you should get the cameras in place so it's conclusive. "If there was a camera at the

other side of the ground square on, there's no doubt you'd know one way or the other." Slater had removed his

gloves and walked to the nonstrikers' end in the direction of the pavilion as the English players celebrated around him.

But he was saved when the third umpire Simon Taufel give him the benefit of the doubt because England's Peter Such had obscured the television replay. Slater took a while to calm

down and the close call made him cautious. But with Australia falling to 110-6 he stepped on the gas, reaching his 11th Test hundred,

and seventh against England. Slater is naturally exuberant, but exceeded even his own usual levels of joy when he reached three figures, running towards the dressingroom with both arms aloft before making his customary kiss on the Australian badge on his batting

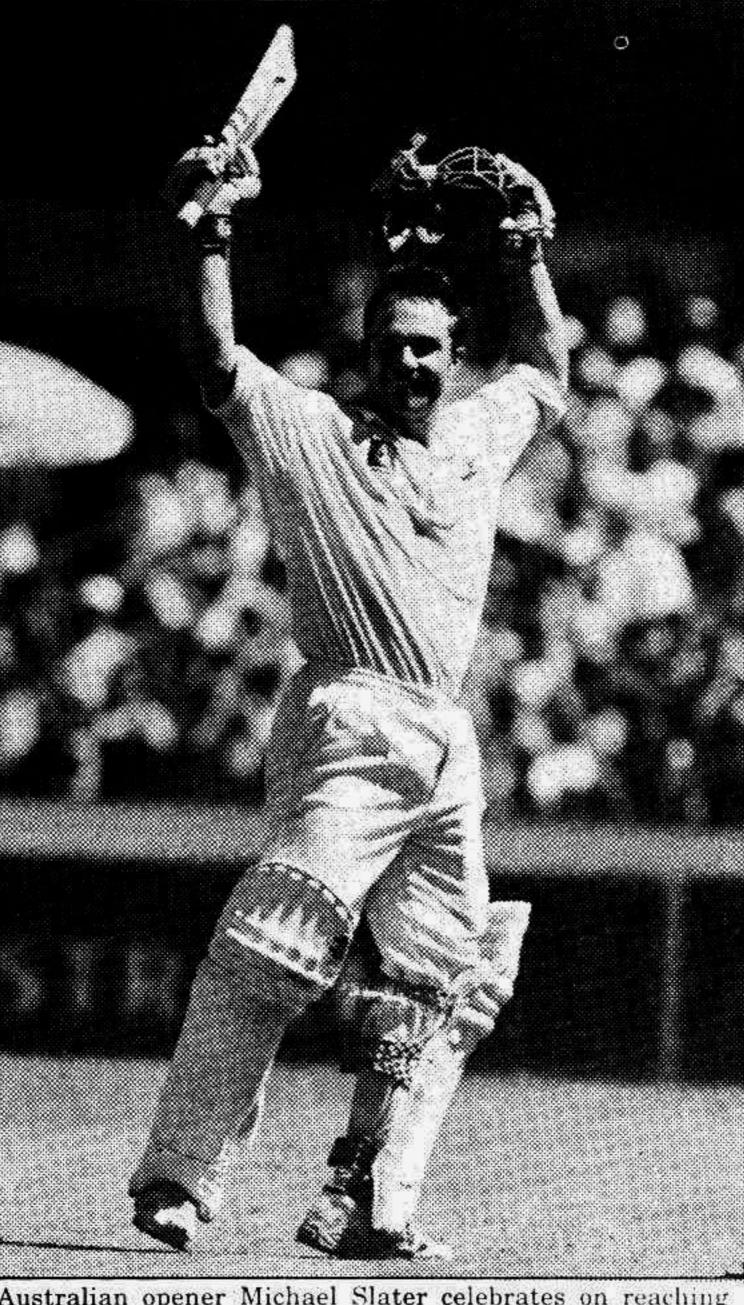
helmet. "I was in a bit of a zone, the eyes were spinning and it was just all happening so I wasn't thinking too much other than hitting through the line," Slater said.

Slater said: "It was an innings I am proud off. It was important someone did it for the team." England's players declined to comment on the decision but were clearly frustrated by the outcome.

While some grounds, such as Lord's, have installed cameras along the batting creases, Sydney relies on the vision shot by the host television broadcaster.

A spokesman for Lord's said the technology had cost about US dlrs 150,000 but could be moved to other venues.

It was the second third um-pire decision to go against England at a crucial time in the series. The tourists lodged an official complaint against TV um-pire Paul Angley after he gave Mike Atherton out to a dubious catch in the third Test at Ade-



Australian opener Michael Slater celebrates on reaching the three figure mark. He later went on to make 123. -AFP photo

Donald rattles Windies

4: A lightning fast opening spell by Allan Donald tightened South the fourth Test against West Indies at Newlands on Sunday, re-

ports Reuters. Donald seized three for 13 in five overs - including the prized-wicket of Brian Lara and first-change pace bowler David Terbrugge also took a wicket as West Indies slumped

to 34 for four. The touring team, rallied by an unbeaten 53 from Carl Hooper, were 89 for four at the close in reply to South Africa's first innings of 406 for eight de-

clared. Donald was forced to withdraw at the end of his fifth over with a hamstring strain in his left leg but by then he had done the damage against a West In-dian side who had already spent

10 hours toiling in the field. With his fourth ball, Donald hustled one through Junior Murray before he had scored, finding an inside edge which wicketkeeper Mark Boucher took well diving to his left.

In Donald's fourth over he again appeared to have simply too much pace for Philo Wallace, who got an edge which flew to first slip Daryll Cullinan, the opener made eight.

Donald reserved his wildest celebrations for his next over when he dismissed Lara for four.

The West Indian captain, who once replaced Donald as Werwickshire's overseas player. had got off the mark with a pulled four off the fast bowler. But after facing just five balls. Lara leapt backwards to

play a defensive shot against

Donald, disturbing his stumps with his right heel as he came down to be out hit wicket. Shivnaraine Chanderpaul attempted to repair the damage with a watchful stay, but after spending almost an hour and a half making six, he aimed a lofted drive at Terbrugge and

Jonty Rhodes leapt to hold onto the catch at short extra cover. Hooper responded to the crisis in aggressive fashion racing to his half-century at virtually

a run-a-ball as he shared an

Hosts fall to foreigners

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 4: France's Sarah Pitkowski and seventh seed Elena Likhovtseva of Russia helped remove some of the local flavour Monday from the Australian women's hardcourt tennis championships, reports AP.

Pitkowski beat Australia's Alicia Molik 6-3, 6-2 while Likhovtseva downed Nicole Pratt 6-2, 6-1 in first-round matches at the Hope Island Tennis Club.

Molik, despite showing promise with six aces and some scorching returns against Pitkowski, also had a number of unforced errors. In other matches Monday,

defending champion Ai Sugiyama of Japan defeated Corina Morariu of the United States 6-2, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3 and Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania beat Elena Tatarkova of Ukraine 6-1, 6-3.

Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan beat Austrian Silvia Plischke 6-4, 7-6 (7-2) and sixth seed Magui Serna of Spain beat Belgium's Sabine Appelmans 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

unbroken fifth wicket stand of 55 with Darren Ganga, who was 16 not out at the close.

Earlier, South Africa had rather lost their way after resuming on 282 for two. Although they did post the highest score of the series when Hansie Cronje declared.

They put on only 49 runs in the morning session and slumped from 376 for four to 397 for eight before declaring at

Jacques Kallis added only



DONALD 3/13 eight to his overnight score.

Falling for 110, while Daryll Cullinan - 122 not out overnight — posted his Test-best 168 before he became the second of Nixon McLean's two victims. Curtly Ambrose was the pick of the West Indian bowlers, bowling economically for little reward before a hamstring strain forced him to withdrew shortly after lunch. South Africa already have a

winning 3-0 lead in the series. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second day of the fourth Test between South Africa and West Indies on Sunday:

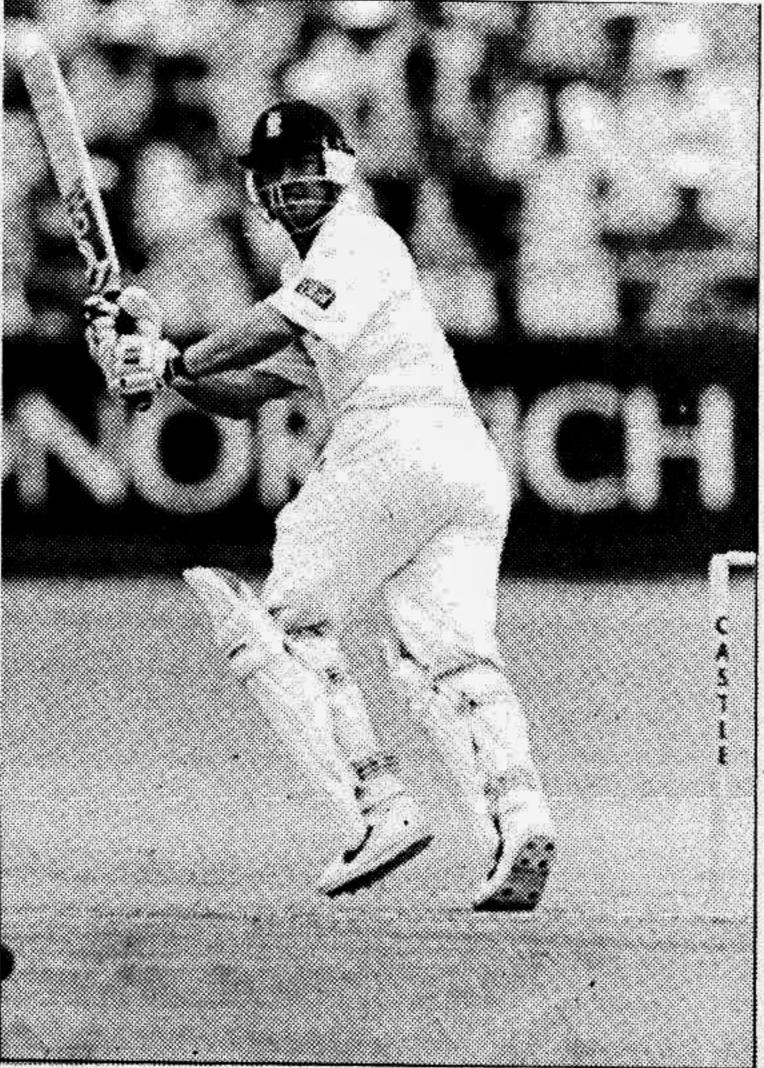
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings .. Kirsten c Jacobs b Ambrose Gibbs c Wallace b Dillon Kallis c Jacobs b Gibson 110 Cullinan c Jacobs b McLean 168 Cronje c Jacobs b McLean Rhodes b Hooper Pollock c Lara b Dillon Boucher not out Donald c Wallace b Dillon Terbrugge not out Extras: (lb-3, w-1, nb-20) Total: (for eight wkts dec)

Fall of wkts: 1-0; 2-74; 3-309; 4-312; 5-376; 6-380; 7-397; 8-Did not bat: P Adams. O M R Bowler: Ambrose 25.5 McLean 76 Gibson 4 92

33.5 6 99 Dillon Hooper 6 60 Chanderpaul 6 0 27 WEST INDIES: First innings Wallace c Cullinan b Donald Murray c Boucher b Donald

Chanderpaul c Rhodes b Terbrugge 6 Lara hit wkt b Donald Hooper not out Ganga not out Extras: (lb-2) Total: (for four wkts) Fall of wkts: 1-1; 2-10; 3-14;

To bat: R Jacobs, O Gibson, N McLean, M Dillon, C Ambrose. Bowler: (to date)O M R Donald Pollock Terbrugge 2 Kallis Adams 0 24



South Africa's Darryl Cullinan flicks the ball during his Test-best innings of 168 on the second day in Cape Town on January 3. -AP/UNB photo Americans

PERTH, Jan 4: Sweden pulled off a surprise victory over the second-seeded United States team of Lindsay Davenport and Jan-Michael Gambill at the Hopman Cup tournament Monday, reports AP.

World No 1 Davenport got the Americans off to a flying start as she overwhelmed Asa Carlsson 6-2, 6-0 in 53 minutes. Jonas Bjorkman then levelled the tie with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Gambill, and the Swedes clinched the tie with a 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 triumph in the mixed dou-

Carlsson had an air of defiance about her as she tackled Davenport. She hit out well in the rallies, but once she was broken to love in the third game there was never any doubt about the eventual outcome.

signs of rust after a lengthy endof-season break, her greater power and fewer errors meant she was never troubled.

'You never know what to expect after six or seven weeks without a match, but I felt I played well in the singles," said Davenport. "The mixed (doubles) was a little bit awkward, but we can build on it."

Gambill was unhappy at

some of the officiating, complaining that one call in the tiebreak was "the worst call I've ever seen." But there was another problem, and the real reason the Americans lost the match.

"In the second set I doublefaulted three times in one game. and you can't do that and win a match," he said.

That gave the Swedes a break for 5-4, and Bjorkman served out for the match. It was the first time Bjorkman had played mixed doubles, but he spent some time practicing and discussing tactics with Carlsson and it paid off.

Their plan was for Bjorkman to crouch low at the net every time Carlsson served and to leap up and knock off a winning volley. He missed a few, but enough of his efforts found

His presence at the net also bothered the Americans.

the net," said Gambill. "He was in the middle of the court and it was really hard knowing where to hit the return.

with his right hamstring. ."It didn't help to lay down every time Asa served," he admitted. "It's been very tight because I've had the flu and didn't play for a week. I just need to loosen it up, but I'm quite sore at the moment. Hopefully with

In matches Tuesday, defending champions Slovak Republic faces Switzerland and South

Africa plays France. The round-robin even consists of two groups, and each team plays three times to determine who will contest Saturday's final, Group A consists of Spain, South Africa, Australia and France while Group B is made up of the United States, Slovak Republic, Sweden and Switzerland.

Hewitt, Enqvist advance

ADELAIDE, Jan 4: Defending champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia upset Nicolas Kiefer of Germany and second seed Thomas Énqvist overcame early nerves, to beat Mark Woodforde in first-round matches at the Australian men's hardcourt tennis championships Monday, reports AP. Hewitt beat the seventh-

seeded Kiefer 7-5, 6-4, while Enqvist overcame a sleepy start to rebound for a 0-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over two-time Adelaide champion Woodforde. Enqvist said he felt the early pressure playing against the

hometown hero who had defeated him in their past three "It was my first match for a while. I was really excited to be

back playing. I felt a little nervous," Enqvist said. Enqvist said he was looking to recapture his form from the first half of last year after spending three months late last year off the circuit with a foot

injury. In earlier matches, Australians Jason Stoltenberg, Scott Draper and Michael Tebbutt won their first-round matches.

over 100F at Memorial Drive, fourth-seeded Stoltenberg won comfortably over French teenager Arnaud Di Pasquale 6-Fresh from a three-month layoff to heal a nagging knee injury, Draper made a shaky start

against Justin Gimelstob but

eventually defeated the Ameri-

As the temperature soared to

can 3-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3. Wildcard recipient Tebbutt beat Canadian Sebastien Lareau 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. Former French Open winner Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten joined the Aussie trio in the second round after beating Frenchman Jerome Golmard 7-

The heat wave is forecast to continue Tuesday when US Open champion and top seed Pat Rafter makes his first singles appearance in two months against Japanese qualifier Takao Suzuki.

Malone wants to play elsewhere

21

23

25

33 Emulate

Michelle

Kwan

34 Takes the

36 Auspicious

we have no

problem"

(inferior)

Yesterday's answer

37 "Houston,

38 — -horse

helm

LOS ANGELES, Jan 4: After 13 outstanding years with the Utah Jazz, Karl Malone has decided it's time to play elsewhere, reports AP. Malone, one of the best

power forwards in NBA history,

said on his radio show Wednes-

day he no longer wants to play

for the Jazz. An 11-time All-Star who led Utah to the NBA finals each of the last two seasons. Malone has one year remaining on his contract with the Jazz.

Swedes shock

Although Davenport showed

their mark.

"Jonas was definitely key at

The only cloud on Bjorkman's horizon is a problem

good treatment it will get bet

in Slater's share of Australia's He scored 66:85 per cent of the team's runs, the second best share by any batsman in the game's 1,438 test matches. Australian Charles Bannerman got 165 of Australia's 245 in the first-ever test in 1,877 at 67.34 per cent.

Slater aside, it was another good day from an English team which lost two of the first three

England have a chance Tests and was saved only by the SYDNEY, Jan 4 rain in the other before winning (AP/Reuters): Michael Slater made in Melbourne. Australia resumed at 13-0 Warren Hegg. His century in-England suffer after receiving a after dismissing England for

220 on Sunday in reply to their first innings 322. Captain 'Mark Taylor was first out Monday for two, prodding forward and edging an away cutter from Darren Gough low to Alec Stewart at first slip.

dubious run out

reprieve Monday by scoring a

century to put Australia in a

strong position in the fifth and

tralia's second innings 184, get-

ting 87 more than replays sug-

gested he deserved, to set Eng-

land a Sydney Cricket Ground

record fourth innings score of

land had made a positive start

with 104 runs, but lost two

Butcher stumped for 27 with a

wrong 'un and Stuart MacGill

beat an advancing Alec Stewart

(42) to have him stumped as

well. Nasser Hussain had 17

and Mark Ramprakash was 14

nings total at the SCG is 276, set

100 years ago by Australia

against England, and the pitch

bowlers to get these eight wick-

ets, we're in the box seat," said

off-spinner Peter Such with 5-

81, performed superbly but the

team lacked a vital piece of luck

as it battled to overcome a 102-

run first innings deficit to level

fading chances, were reflected

England's frustrations and

"We're confident we've got the

England's bowlers, led by

is taking considerable turn.

The record winning last in-

At stumps on Day Three Eng-

Shane Warne had Mark

Slater thumped 123 of Aus-

final Test Monday.

287 to win the match.

wickets.

at the close.

Slater.

the series 2-2.

England skipper Alec Stewart drives leg-spinner Stuart MacGill in his caviller 42.

Justin Langer made just one before he was second man down at 25, playing across the crease to a ball from Headley which pitched on leg and held its line to get him lbw. Slater and Mark Waugh (24)

added 39 before Waugh, a century scorer in the first innings went to another stunning catch behind square leg from Mark Ramprakash off Headley. Darren Lehmann had his

fourth failure since returning to the team when he became Such's first victim, pushing a hard chance to John Crawley at silly point. Ian Healy fell for five to the Such-Crawley combination while Headley bowled the best ball of the match to send back an injured Steve Waugh for eight.

Waugh, struggling with a hamstring strain but batting without the help of a runner had his off stump rocked back by a Headley leg-cutter.

Schett sails

AUCKLAND, Jan 4: Austrian Barbara Schett did something Monday she hasn't been able to do in four previous attempts -win a first-round match at the Auckland Women's Classic ten-

nis tournament, reports AP. Playing with confidence and keeping her opponent on the defensive. Schett, the fourth seed swept past struggling German Elena Wagner 6-1, 6-0.

In other matches Monday, second seed Silvia Farina of Italy beat Andrea Glass of Germany 6-4, 7-5 and third-seeded

Julie Halard-Decugis of France

beat Jana Nejedly of Canada 6-

Slater gave Headley four wickets when he sliced a thin edge through to wicketkeeper cluded 11 fours and three sixes. all off Such, and featured some

-AFP photo

stunning drives. England made a bright start to their run chase with Stewart and Butcher putting on 57 before Warne got a wicket with his sixth ball of the innings, luring Butcher down the track. Stewart played an attacking innings but his approach led to his downfall

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the fifth and final Ashes Test between Australia and England at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Monday: AUSTRALIA: First innings 322

ENGLAND: First innings 220 AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 13-0) Taylor c Stewart b Gough Slater c Hegg b Headley Langer lbw b Headley M Waugh c Ramprakash b Headley24 Lehmann c Crawley b Such Healy c Crawley b Such Waugh b Headley Warne c Ramprakash b Such MacGill c Butcher b Such Miler not out

McGrath c Stewart b Such Extras: (b-3, lb-1) Total: (All out in 64.5 overs) Fall of wkts: 1-16; 2-25; 3-64; 4-73; 5-91; 6-110; 7-141; 8-180; 9-184. Bowler: Headley Gough 51 Such Tudor ENGLAND: Second innings Butcher st Healy b Warne

Hussain not out Ramprakasii not out Extras: (lb-3, w-1) Total: (for two wickets in 30 overs)104 Fall of wkts: 1-57; 2-77. OMRW McGrath Miller MacGill 27 Warne 22

Stewart st Healy b MacGill



World No1 Lindsay Davenport smiles whlie being interviewed by noted American broadcaster Fred Stolle at the Hopman Cup on January 4. Her partner Jan-Michael Gambill is watching. -AFP photo

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before Obadiah W L AYXNJ ROEFXR 43 Split JEAAZXR. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NEWS FLASH: FARMER'S OLD RAM FALLS OFF CLIFF; IT COULDN'T SEE THE pioneer

46 lowa city EWE TURN.
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one 47 Into the letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it sunset will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short 49 Goody words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to shoes locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.