

## Fleming not playing today

NAPIER, New Zealand, Jan 11 (Reuters/AP): Another flare-up of Stephen Fleming's persistent groin injury has put the New Zealand captain out of Tuesday's one-day international against India.

The captaincy passes to all-rounder Dion Nash. Fleming will be replaced by 34-year-old Bryan Young, who will be playing his 70th one-day international. "We have picked him on form and experience," said Chairman of selectors Ross Dykes.

Young will open the innings with Matthew Horne. Roger Twose, who went in first in the first one-day international in Taupo, will drop down the order.

Tuesday's match is the second one-day international of the series. New Zealand won the first.

By scoring 100 for Auckland against Canterbury on Sunday, Young became the highest scorer in the history of the Shell Cup, New Zealand's inter-provincial one-day competition.

Fleming is unlikely to play in the remaining matches in the current series with India. He had a mild recurrence of the injury before the third Test which ended last week and it resurfaced during the first one-day international on Saturday, forcing him to leave the field.

The New Zealand team physiotherapist Mark Harrison said before the third Test that "chronic overuse" had caused Fleming's injury and that rest is essential for its cure.

Harrison warned that if Fleming attempted to return to the game too soon, he could jeopardise his chances playing in the one-day series against South Africa beginning on February 14 and the following Test series.

Fleming will have an ultrasound scan before consulting a surgeon on how best to overcome the problem.

Harrison said the scan would indicate the extent of the tear.

"At this stage it is looking like a partial tear of the adductor tendon and it is not ruptured," Harrison said Monday. "There is a lot of pain. It has been brewing for a long time and really it was a matter of time before it went."

"If we waited much longer he might have missed South Africa and if we waited until after South Africa he might have missed the World Cup so right now there is a window for us to get it examined."

The World Cup starts in England in May. "If it requires an operation he'll need four weeks before turning to sport. A lot of rugby players get these injuries and the success rate is high."

## Ajax take controlling stake in South African club

AMSTERDAM, Jan 11 (Reuters/Interfax): Dutch champions Ajax Amsterdam announced on Monday they had taken a 51 percent stake in Ajax Cape Town, a new club which will play in South Africa's premier league next season.

The club has been formed by merging Seven Stars and Cape Town Spurs. Seven Stars owner Rob Moore and John Comitis, who owned Cape Town Spurs, will hold the remaining 49 percent of Ajax Cape Town.

Ajax Amsterdam will invest more than 1.2 million dollars in upgrading Cape Town Spurs' facilities and the new club will adopt Ajax's training methods.

Ajax said their investment would mainly be aimed at strengthening the new club's youth department.

## McLean Park ODI today

NAPIER, New Zealand, Jan 11: Caretaker captain Dion Nash will add his personal touches to New Zealand's game plan when the second limited-over cricket international against India begins at McLean Park on Tuesday, reports AP.

The 27-year-old Auckland representative takes over the New Zealand leadership reins after regular captain Stephen Fleming was ruled out because of a groin injury.

Nash said while the team was familiar with the pattern initiated by Fleming and coach Steve Rix, he wasn't going to be a puppet for them out in the middle.

"We've got a fairly good formula we are working to and it is just a matter of taking that over, but there will be my natural slant on it," Nash said.

"Once you are out there you have to play it how you see it and that is exactly how I intend doing it."

Nash has limited experience as a leader. He has captained Northern in the Conference competition for the past two

seasons and New Zealand A against Pakistan last month, but his only other experiences were at club level and for his high school.

"I'm looking forward to it with a few apprehensions but it will be a nice challenge," Nash said. "I realise I'm only taking over from the moment and my job is to keep the reins straight."

New Zealand had one change forced upon them, with opener Bryan Young recalled for Fleming, and they are likely to make another alteration from the side which beat India by five wickets in Taupo.

Left-arm pace bowler Geoff Allott is expected to come in for Simon Doull.

India scored 257 for five in Taupo but captain Mohammad Azharuddin thought they under-achieved by 30 runs. Given the quality of their bowling attack they need a score over 275 to be competitive.

India are likely to be boosted by the return of leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who was a late defector because of a neck injury in Taupo and replaced by Hrishikesh Kanitkar.

Kanitkar took his opportu-

nity with some handy runs at the tail and may keep his place with either medium-pace Venkatesh Prasad or Nikhil Chopra dropping out. A decision on whether Kumble plays will be made after final warmups Tuesday.

The pitch is in keeping with McLean Park's tradition of producing a hard and true batting surface. With a promising forecast match officials are predicting a crowd of between 10,000 to 12,000.

### TEAMS

**NEW ZEALAND:** Dion Nash (captain), Matthew Horne, Bryan Young, Craig McMillan, Roger Twose, Chris Cairns, Adam Parore, Chris Harris, Daniel Vettori, Gavin Larsen, Geoff Allott, Simon Doull. One to be omitted.

**INDIA:** Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Ajay Jadeja, Robin Singh, Anil Kumble, Nayan Mongia, Nikhil Chopra, Jaggal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Sunil Joshi. Two to be omitted.

**Umpires:** Steve Dunne, Chris King. Third umpire: Even Watkins.

## Gerd scores again in the game of his life

MUNICH, Jan 11 (Reuters/Internet): If anyone has a right to squirm with frustration as modern strikers struggle to master the art of shooting accurately and scoring goals, it is Gerd Mueller.

The same "Der Bomber" who once shot, stabbed or rifled in 365 Bundesliga goals in 427 games for the Bavarians and an amazing 68 in 62 appearances for Germany.

The best goalscorer of all time? Few would argue. He won everything.

But since his net-busting heyday of the late 1970s, while his records remained unbroken, the man himself nearly went by alcohol.

Fading glory and boredom combined with the opportunities created by owning his own bar in Fort Lauderdale while he lived in America in the twilight of his career turned him into an alcoholic so surreptitiously he hardly knew it had happened.

"I did not realise, I just did not know," he said as he sat in the offices at Bayern's training fields where, now, nearly 10 years on, he was as a coach to the Bavarian club's under-21s.

"Then, they just saved me from it."

The "they" Mueller referred to were his friends and former teammates Uli Hoessner and Franz Beckenbauer.

Now general-manager and president of Bayern Munich respectively, these two are at the centre of the long-awaited overhaul of German football, set in motion recently when Beckenbauer became vice-president of the German Football Association (DFB).

Some have already claimed this is the biggest challenge of Beckenbauer's life and success could be his most important triumph.

This, according to those who work around them in the offices at Bayern, is not true — their greatest moment came in the salvation of 53-year-old Mueller's life.

Mueller was back in Munich, jobless and drinking, when he bottomed out, but without the single chilling moment of depression that made him catch

his own face in the mirror of life.

Hoessner rescued him, organised his entry into a clinic south of Munich, arranged for his costs to be met by an insurance claim, supported him as much as possible and warned him that he had to stay sober to keep the job that lay ahead.

As he talked, Mueller's spectacles glinted in the wintry sunshine above a trimmed grey beard which gave him a semi-academic air. He hardly looked like a retired goalscorer, but Mueller confirmed the existence of his greatest fear.

He dreads a return to the bottles of beer, wine, whisky other spirits which wrecked his life, upset his marriage to Uschi and his relationship with his only daughter in the days before Hoessner took him by the scruff of the neck in 1990.

"Now, when I go to a dinner, any kind of function, anywhere, I always check the food and the drinks first," he said. "I ask about the sauces on the meat, the cream in the puddings. I need to know if there is any alcohol anywhere."

"I never want to go back and it only takes one drop. I was lucky, because Uli saved me. Bayern saved me. My family helped me. I did not understand any of it. I was incapable of helping myself until Uli helped me."

For Paul Gascoigne, the recovering English star who was recently admitted to an alcoholic clinic, he has understanding. "He needs his friends and he needs support to help through this time," he said.

"That is so important. It takes so much to get through this time. At my clinic, they wanted me to stay longer. But I was there for four weeks and it was enough for me. I came out and I have stayed out."

Mueller's bravest act has been repeated every day since. It was not a goal which won a Bundesliga title, or those which helped Bayern Munich lift European Cup for three successive years in 1974, 1975 and 1976, or any in his personal assault on the World Cup's striking records.

No, it is in his determination to stay dry, respected and employed by Bayern — the club

he loves which has dragged him back from near oblivion.

"I have incredible respect for him," said Karin Potthoff, Hoessner's secretary.

"I knew him as a player and as a man and I have known him these last 10 years. He has a true strength of character. Now we all feel like friends with him here at Bayern. I think that is part of his strength too."



Chinese Wang Nan poses with the ITTF Par Tour de Paris trophy after defeating compatriot Lin Ling in the final on January 10.

## Steve, Darren may miss two more matches

SYDNEY, Jan 11: Australian captain Steve Waugh and batsman Darren Lehmann could miss two more matches in the three-nation limited-over tournament here, increasing the pressure on Ricky Ponting to find some form, reports AFP.

Ponting failed again in Sunday's seven-run loss to England in Brisbane. It was his first match back in the national team since being dropped after three Ashes Tests.

Waugh and Lehmann, both with hamstring strains, are certain to miss Wednesday's match against Sri Lanka here, and team physio Errol Alcott would prefer them to rest for another two days.

Waugh is keen to return for Friday's third match against England at Melbourne Cricket Ground and stiffen a batting lineup that crumbled on Sunday in Brisbane.

Lehmann faces a fitness test on Tuesday but is rated only a 50-50 chance of being fit for Wednesday.

Ponting hit a match-winning 124 not out in the third one-day international against Pakistan in Lahore in November but has made 75 first-class runs in seven innings this season.

Again he fell to a poor stroke, trying to force the pace, as he did in the Tests.

And with World Cup selection looming, there is no time to waste.

After training today, coach Geoff Marsh spent an extra half hour with Ponting. "He was ranked number three in the world in one-day cricket last year so it's important we get him over this slump," Marsh said.

Every time you play for Australia you're on trial, it's something you've got to get used to.

"He looks like a young bloke trying to playing at the top level, but he needs to take his time a little bit and not go so hard at the ball."



EIGHTEEN CARET GOLD: Juventus' French playmaker Zinedine Zidane receives the prestigious Golden Ball from French Football Federation director Gerard Henaut prior to match against Bari.

## Mallorca prove a point

MALLORCA, Spain, Jan 11 (Reuters/Internet): Mallorca may have led the Spanish league since mid-November but it took a victory over European champions Real Madrid on Sunday to convince many of their critics that they are serious title contenders.

"After the victory, we have decided that Mallorca are worthy leaders," an editorial in the national daily newspaper El Mundo commented on Monday.

"During the last week everybody was talking about how Real Madrid were going to take over at the top but now I think we all understand that Mallorca knows how to stay there," it added.

Mallorca currently have 32 points from 17 games with Celta Vigo lying second, one point behind.

A test of their true calibre awaits them next weekend when they have to travel to Celta Vigo without their inspirational Spanish international midfielder Vicente Engonga, who will be suspended.

The match will decide whether Mallorca remain as league leaders for an eighth successive week — one week closer to the end of the season.

**Mallorca 2 Real Madrid 1** Real Madrid boss Guus Hiddink complained of bad luck after the game but Mallorca were deserved winners, after starting brilliantly and keeping calm late on. Madrid skipper Manuel Sanchis endured a miserable afternoon, scoring an own goal after Ariel Ibagaza's early opener and then getting sent off after Clarence Seedorf had briefly given his side hope.

**Valladolid 2 Real Betis 1** Goals either side of halftime from Croatian striker Alen Peternac — his eighth and ninth of the season — set strugglers Valladolid on their way to this unlikely victory over Betis, who looked thoroughly out of sorts.

**Villarreal 1 Real Zaragoza 1** The home side looked set to notch their sixth victory of the season before goalscorer Manuel Alfaro was sent off on 77 minutes. Zaragoza left it late but eventually made their numerical advantage pay through former Aston Villa striker Savo Milosevic three minutes from

time. **Deportivo Coruna 1 Racing Santander 2**

Russian striker Vladimir Bestchastnykh, who has a habit of scoring important goals, having grabbed a late equaliser against Real Madrid earlier in the season, popped up with five minutes to go to secure the points from this scrappy encounter. The result saw Deportivo — touted as title challengers last month — slip into the bottom half of the table.

**Oviedo 2 Valencia 2** Dely Valdes showed his poacher's instinct with two well-taken goals, making it nine so far this season for the Panamanian striker. Valencia showed excellent fighting spirit, though, to equalise twice through a Joyce Moreno own goal and a Luis Milla tap-in right at the death.

**Real Sociedad 4 Salamanca 0** A remarkable second-half display from the home side saw them go 1-0 up, then have a man sent off but still go on to quadruple their tally. Darko Kovacevic was once again out-

standing the Yugoslav international scoring twice to make it nine goals in the league so far this term.

**Alaves 1 Espanyol 1** A point apiece was a reasonable return for each of these struggling sides. Youngster Joan Capdevila was again the outstanding player for Espanyol as he scored his third goal since breaking into the side earlier in the season.

**Tenerife 0 Celta Vigo 2** After a sleepless first half Celta found their form late on to take the points with goals from Valery Karpin and Brazilian midfielder Mazinho, the latter finishing coolly following a flick on from Juan Sanchez. The result leaves Tenerife stuck in last place, with new coach Carlos Aimar still looking for a first win.

**Atletico Madrid 5 Extremadura 0** A stroll for Atletico, roared on by their biggest crowd of the season, enticed by the offer of free tickets as a tribute to their president Jesus Gil, who is in custody. The goals were shared by five different players as second-to-bottom Extremadura offered little resistance.

**Played on Saturday:** **Atletico Madrid 5 Extremadura 0** A stroll for Atletico, roared on by their biggest crowd of the season, enticed by the offer of free tickets as a tribute to their president Jesus Gil, who is in custody. The goals were shared by five different players as second-to-bottom Extremadura offered little resistance.

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**Barcelona 4 Athletic Bilbao 2**

A second-half double from Brazilian striker Rivaldo wrapped up victory for Barcelona, after Athletic had threatened to come back from first half goals by Luis Enrique Martinez and Philip Cocu. Ismael Urzaiz — his 11th of the season — and Julen Guerrero scored for the visitors.

**Cole-Yorke double act sinks West Ham**

LONDON, Jan 11 (Reuters/Internet): Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole continued the double act that has struck fear into the English Premier League as Manchester United brushed aside West Ham United 4-1 on Sunday to go third.

Yorke shot United ahead after 10 minutes following a Cole pass and Cole made it 2-0 in the 40th after Nicky Butt's shot came back off a post.

Yorke returned the compliment in the 68th minute, feeding Cole who coolly slotted home.

The two strikers, who have struck up a deadly partnership since Yorke's arrival from Aston Villa in the summer, have now notched 13 goals each this season.

In a game that kicked off 45 minutes late because of a floodlight failure, United were never troubled and completed a one-sided victory 10 minutes from time when Ole Gunnar Solskjaer headed into an empty net moments after coming on as substitute.

The only bright spot for the visitors was an encouraging performance by 17-year-old midfielder Joe Cole, who came on for the second half to make a confident league debut.

Frank Lampard scored a consolation goal for West Ham in the dying moments of the game.

The victory lifted United above Arsenal to third place, two points behind Aston Villa and Chelsea, well atop the standings on goal difference.

Chelsea beat Newcastle United 1-0 away on Saturday while Villa lost top spot after drawing 0-0 at Middlesbrough.

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## The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Tuesday 12th January

(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.)

### BBC

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