

## Zagallo suffers first defeat

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 11 (Reuters/Internet): Former Brazil coach Mario Zagallo was on the losing side for the first time since taking over at Sao Paulo club Portuguesa on Wednesday.

The "Old Wolf", who led Brazil to the runners-up spot in France last year, had enjoyed five straight victories before his team lost 1-0 to Sao Jose in the Paulista (Sao Paulo state) championship.

Despite the defeat, Portuguesa stayed top of their group in the first stage of the competition.

Eight of the 12 clubs will qualify for the second stage, where the four major clubs join the fray, and Portuguesa are all but certain to be among them.

In Rio de Janeiro, the qualifying stage of the Carioca (Rio de Janeiro state) championship continued in bizarre style with America-Rio de Janeiro once again refusing to play.

Itaperuna became the third team to benefit from a 2-0 walkover defeat as America, who claim they merit an automatic place in the championship proper, continued to protest.

Two other competitions also continued in the bemusing start to the Brazilian season.

In the Rio-Sao Paulo tournament, in which the major clubs play while they wait to start in their respective state tournaments, Botafogo drew 1-1 with Flamengo and Corinthians were held 1-1 with Sao Paulo, both in group two.

Sao Paulo have already qualified for the semi-finals while Botafogo will go through unless they lose their last match to Corinthians, in which case Flamengo will overtake them on goal difference.

Meanwhile, Atletico Mineiro, playing their first competitive match of the year but already onto their fourth coach, qualified for the second round of the Copa Brasil, a nationwide knockout tournament.

Their 3-0 win to Linhares in a first round first leg tie put them through under another unorthodox rule, under which away teams who win their first leg by two goals or more qualify automatically.

Palmeiras travelled to Manaus in the Amazon rain forest and beat Sao Raimundo 2-1 while Pele's old club Santos won 1-0 at Siron, the other obscure team from the country's soccer backwaters.

## Hughes hit with the fourth ban

LONDON, Feb 11 (Reuters/Internet): Welsh international Mark Hughes, regarded as one of the fiercest competitors in the English premier league, picked up his fourth ban of the season on Thursday.

Hughes, of Southampton, was fined 2,000 pounds (\$3,244) and suspended for two games by The Football Association. He has been booked 14 times in 24 games this season.

Hughes, 35, has enjoyed a glittering career as a striker with Manchester United, Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Chelsea before switching to midfield with Southampton this season.

He vowed to change his physical style when he appeared before the F.A. before Christmas but since then he has been cautioned three times in five matches.

His club manager David Jones accompanied Hughes to the hearing. Hughes said afterwards: "I have been trying hard. It's difficult but I have got to make a conscious effort."

## European leagues want uniform transfer window

LONDON, Feb 11 (Reuters/Internet): The newly-formed Association of European Premier Leagues proposed a Europe-wide transfer window on Wednesday.

They also suggested a common European calendar for international fixtures to avoid clashes with league matches and said there should be a minimum number of players under the age of 21 in each team's squad.

The 13-strong group met at the offices of the English premier league, with British Sports Minister Tony Banks also in attendance.

The three main ideas were put forward for further discussion at the association's next meeting, to be held in March.

The common transfer window policy is the most radical proposal as currently there are widely different arrangements, some leagues having cut-off deadlines and others having transfer windows at various times during the season.

English premier league Chief Executive Peter Lever said: "We think it might be feasible for the leagues to come together on this point."

"There is feeling we need harmony throughout Europe to ensure fair play and it's something we will continue to discuss."

The concept of promoting home-grown youth players follows the Scottish FA's rule that says at least two Scottish-born players under 21-years-of-age must be included in each first team squad.

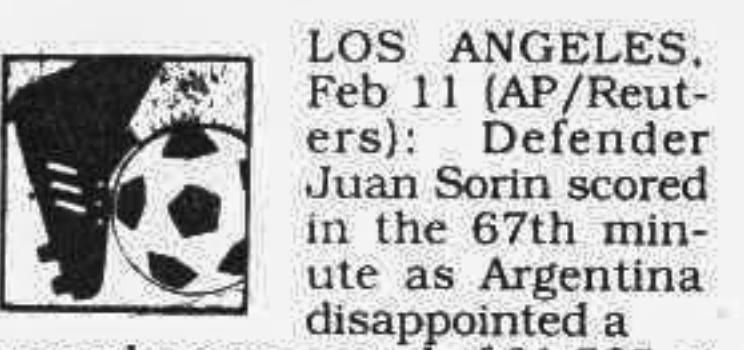
The move to harmonise international dates is to try to limit the number of players missing club games to play in friendlies.

The Association represents the leagues of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and Switzerland, and is officially recognised by UEFA.



Claudio Husain (R) of Argentina and Mexico's Miguel Zepeda go for the ball during their international friendly at Los Angeles on February 10. Argentina won 1-0. — AFP photo

## Argentina edge Mexico



LOS ANGELES, Feb 11 (AP/Reuters): Defender Juan Sorin scored in the 67th minute as Argentina disappointed a

soccer crowd of 91,585 at the Los Angeles Coliseum with a 1-0 victory over Mexico in an exhibition match Wednesday night.

On a sequence beginning with a free kick, Guillermo Barros Schelotto drove to the goal from the left side, drawing Mexican goalkeeper Jorge Campos toward him. Campos deflected Schelotto's pass, but an on-rushing Sorin put a diving header into the unguarded net.

The Mexican team was lethargic for most of the match despite playing in front of an overwhelmingly pro-Mexico crowd. But the Mexicans stepped up their attack following the Argentine goal. A shot by Juan Manuel Abundis in the 76th minute barely went wide of the net, while his 83rd-minute shot hit the crossbar.

Luis Hernandez's 79th-minute shot eluded goalkeeper German Burgos, but was cleared away by defender Claudio Hu-

man. Nevertheless, Argentina dominated a Mexican side that

had 11 World Cup veterans. Argentina used their superior speed and anticipation to control midfield, win contested balls and sabotage Mexico's unimaginative attack.

One crucial Mexican player, midfielder Ramon Ramirez, missed the match with an injury.

### LINEUPS

#### MEXICO:

Pavel Pardo, Sergio Almaguer, Durilo Davino, Miguel Zepeda, German Villa (Salvador Carmona, 46th minute), Claudio Suarez, Salvador Cabrera (Juan Manuel Abundis, 46th), Francisco Palencia, Cuauhtemoc Blanco, Luis Hernandez.

Coach: Manuel Lapuente.

ARGENTINA: German Burgos, Claudio Husain, Eduardo Berizzo, Walter Samuel, Juan Sorin, Leonardo Astrada, Diego Cagna, Marcelo Gallardo (Jorge San Esteban, 90th minute), Christian Bassedas (Sebastian Mendez, 82nd), Guillermo Barros Schelotto, Martin Palermo.

Coach: Marcelo Bielsa.

Referee: Richard Grady (United States).

## Italy, Holland fail to find the net



LONDON, Feb 11: Europe's two World Cup semi-finalists failed to find the net in their friendlies on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The Netherlands drew 0-0 with Portugal in a match played in Paris while the World Cup's third-place team Croatia lost 1-0 at home to Denmark.

There was another goalless draw in Pisa, where Italy failed to repeat their World Cup victory over Norway while Paraguay, one of nine teams who reached the second round of France '98 in action on Wednesday, lost 2-0 to Ireland on Dublin.

In the night's two European Championship qualifiers, Cyprus beat San Marino 4-0 in Nicosia to claim their biggest ever international victory while Yugoslavia cruised past Malta 3-0 in Valetta.

While France were in action against England 1-1 London, Parisian fans had the chance to watch Portugal and the Netherlands do battle in the Parc des Princes.

And while there were no goals, the 30,000 mostly Portuguese crowd had plenty of ac-

tion as both teams opted for all-out attack.

Portuguese midfielder Paulo Bento missed the best chance of the night when he blasted a volley over the bar in the first half.

But the Dutch also came close, particularly after Real Madrid midfielder Clarence Seedorf and Utrecht striker Michael Mols came on as second half substitutes.

A lone 54th-minute goal by Ebbe Sand sealed victory for Denmark against Croatia but the match was interrupted for 12 minutes due to a power outage.

Cold and heavy rain made the pitch difficult for the players to control the ball, and in the 83rd minute the bad weather caused the lights at the Poljud Stadion to go out — giving the players an unexpected break.

Sand scored at the end of the first half when he stole the ball from Croatian defenders, then ran 30 metres while shaking off two defenders before calmly lobbing the ball over keeper Marijan Mrinic from close range.

Croatia had earlier gone close to scoring three times

within the space of a minute, but Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel showed why he is one of the best in the world.

Croatian striker Davor Suker went closest in the 13th minute when he intercepted a pass from Schmeichel, but was too slow in firing the shot, allowing his old rival to run back and tip the ball out from the empty net.

Schmeichel then saved a header by Zvonimir Soldo and another Suker attempt, this one from a free kick.

He was beaten in the 41st minute, but Mario Stanic's left-footed effort went centimetres wide.

Croatian coach Miroslav Blazevic made five changes to his side in the second half, testing several players ahead of next month's Euro 2000 qualifier against Yugoslavia.

In Pisa Italy hit the woodwork twice but failed to puncture a stubborn Norwegian defence.

Roberto Baggio curled a free kick against the inside of Thomas Myhra's left-hand post in the fourth minute and Marco Delbecchio later hooked a volley past Myhra but again it bounced off the post and was cleared.

Norway forced their way into the match in the second half but neither side created clear cut chances.

### Big blow for Arsenal

#### Arsenal

LONDON, Feb 11 (Reuters/Internet): English champions Arsenal, who had seven players in Wednesday's international between England and France, have paid a heavy price for their involvement in the match.

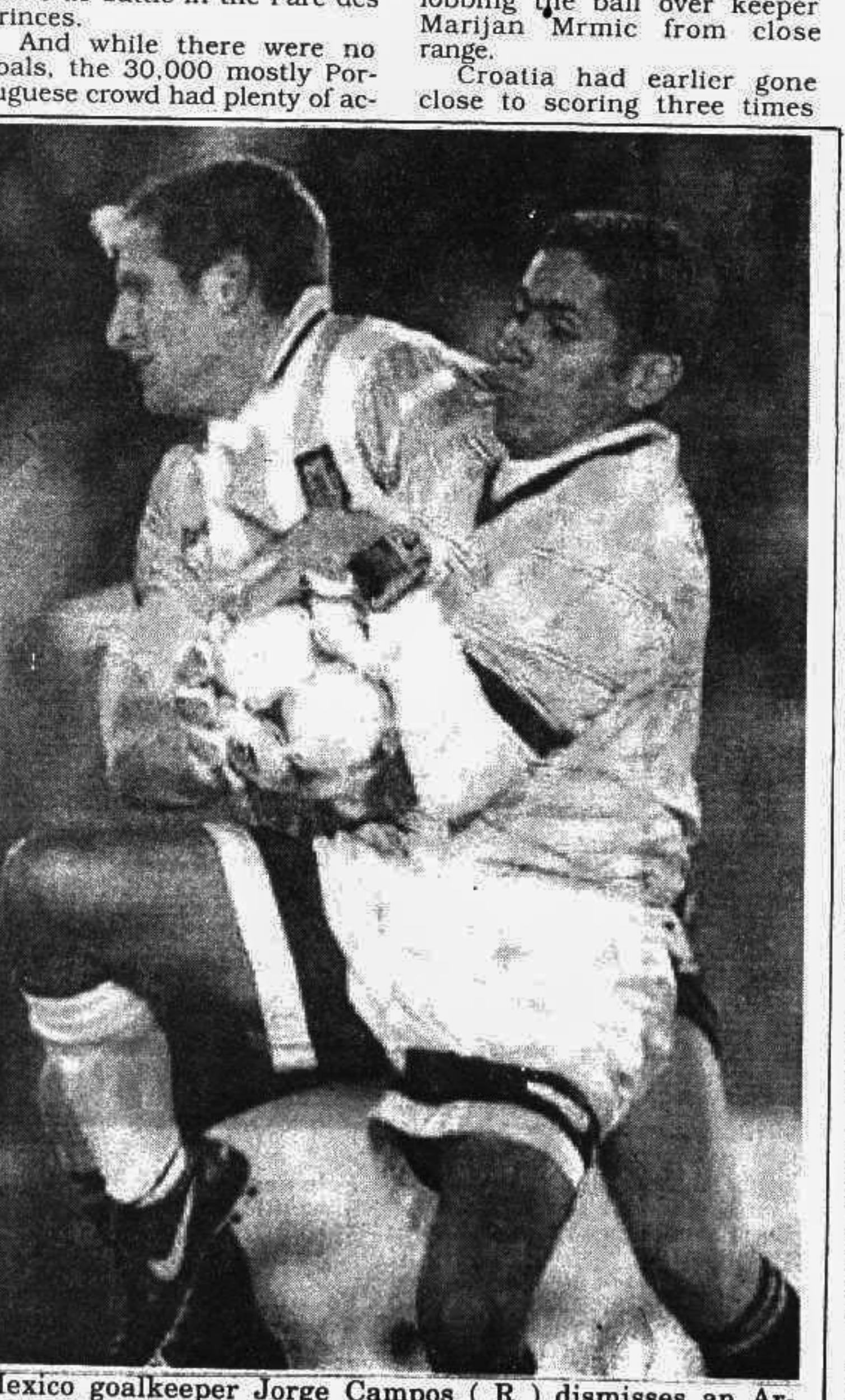
Skipper Tony Adams suffered a broken nose, recalled veteran defender Lee Dixon was taken to hospital with concussion and Martin Keown has been sidelined for at least three weeks with a hamstring injury.

On a brighter note, Arsenal striker Nicolas Anelka scored both of France's goals in their 2-0 win -- against second-half substitute Nigel Martyn who replaced Anelka's Arsenal clubmate David Seaman at half-time.

Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger said: "The injuries are a big worry for me and Keown is the most serious -- he might be out for a month."

The injuries come at a hard time for Arsenal who continue the defence of the F.A. Cup with a fifth round against Sheffield United at Highbury on Saturday and play Manchester United at Old Trafford in a crucial premier league match next Wednesday.

Arsenal have Frenchman Emmanuel Petit, who came through Wednesday's match unscathed, suspended for both



Mexico goalkeeper Jorge Campos (R) dismisses an Argentine attempt. — Internet photo

## Sport

### Moin, Inzamam keep Pakistan together

KOCHI, India, Feb 11: The touring Pakistanis wasted useful batting practice ahead of the Asian Test Championships when they were restricted to 247-9 in a three-day match here today, reports AFP.

Stand-in captain Moin Khan (67) and Inzamamul Haq (65) were the only batsmen to come good against the young Test hopefuls of the Indian Board President's Eleven on the first day.

Veteran opener Saeed Anwar failed to build on a sound start of 40, while Shahid Afridi, Younus Younus and newcomers Wajahatullah Wasti and Mohammad Naveed went cheaply.

Pakistan closed their innings 15 minutes before stumps and the home team openers showed there were no hidden terrors in the wicket by rattling up 35 for no loss in eight overs before close.

Gagan Khoda made 12 and Shiv Sunder Das 14 as seamer Azhar Mahmood, playing his first match on the tour, conceded 18 runs in three wayward overs with the new ball.

Pakistan rested skipper Wasim Akram, paceman Waqar Younis, batsmen Ijaz Ahmed and Salim Malik, and in-form spinner Saqlain Mushtaq for the warm-up game in this southern coastal town.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the three-day match between the Pakistan and Indian Board President's Eleven on Thursday.

#### PAKISTAN: First innings

Moin Khan c Khoda b Mohanty 6  
Afridi c Prasad b Shukla 14  
Wasti c Kanitkar b Kartik 28  
Anwar c Yadar b Kanitkar 40  
Inzamamul Haq c Khoda b Shukla 65

Anarhaphadanabhan 9  
Azhari Mahmood c Prasad b Shukla 0  
Moin Khan c Kaif b Mohanty 67

Shukla 0  
Mushtaq c Prasad b Kartik 3  
Shoaib not out 3  
Extras: (lb-2, nb-10) 12  
Total: (for 9 wkt) 247

Did not bat: Nadeem Khan  
Fall of wkt: 1- 2-44; 3-94;  
4-94; 5-157; 6-199; 7-205; 8-225;  
9-247

**Bowler** O M R W  
Mohanty 12.4 6 32 2  
Shukla 12 2 55 2  
Yadar 5 1 12 0  
Kanitkar 26 5 69 1  
Kanitkar 6 0 21 1  
Schwag 6 1 22 0  
Anantha padmanabhan 11 1 34 1

**PRESIDENT'S ELEVEN:**

First innings  
Das not out 14  
Khoda not out 12  
Extras: (lb-3, nb-6) 9

**Bowler** O M R W  
Akhbar 12.4 6 32 2  
Mahmood 3 0 5 0  
Mushtaq 1 0 2 0  
Nadeem 1 0 7 0

**SYDNEY, Feb 11 (AP/Reuters):** Round 1 went to Shane Warne. Now the war of words between the Australian skipper and England's Nasser Hussain is set for a return engagement in Friday's second limited-overs cricket final.

Warne says he doesn't expect to be named skipper.

"It's nice to be spoken of as a potential captain but I think down deep Steve will be the next captain of Australia.

"It would be a huge honour, it's a huge honour just to play for Australia but I just expect Steve to be captain."

The leg spinner who has

## Which 'SW' will Australia turn to?

MELBOURNE, Feb 11 (AP/Reuters): Steve Waugh, the quiet man of Australian cricket, or Shane Warne, the often cocky match winner. On Friday, one of them will be named captain of the squad following the resignation last week of Mark Taylor.

Waugh is favoured to win the job after 13 years of playing international cricket for Australia, but his recent injury problems have opened the door for Warne, his deputy in the limited-overs side since Taylor's dumping from one-day play.

Pakistan closed their innings 15 minutes before stumps and the home team openers showed there were no hidden terrors in the wicket by rattling up 35 for no loss in eight overs before close.

Gagan Khoda made 12 and Shiv Sunder Das 14 as seamer Azhar Mahmood, playing his first match on the tour, conceded 18 runs in three wayward overs with the new ball.

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### SHANE WARNE

While Waugh has been sidelined for nearly all of the tri-series, Warne has done a sterling job leading the side to six consecutive wins and to within one victory of lifting the series title.

His attacking fields and extroverted style of leadership has been a revelation, but Waugh has long been touted as Taylor's successor. And Waugh led the Australians to tri-series success in Australia last year as well as series wins in India and